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THE TIMES

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Moscow's attempt to evade arms treaty could aid Saddam, US study says

Iraq may have secret Soviet SS-12 missiles

From Peter Stothard, US editor, in Washington and Our Foreign Staff

A HIGH-level American intelligence study has warned the White House that Iraq may have accurate medium-range Soviet SS-12 missiles in addition to its arsenal of Scuds.

The SS-12, with a range of almost 600 miles, was one of the weapons which the Soviet Union was supposed to have destroyed after the 1987 intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty. It is now increasingly thought that a small number of the missiles may have been parked in Iraq by the Soviet military to evade the treaty.

Administration sources say the SS-12, which could strike strategic targets in Saudi Arabia and Israel, is on a controversial intelligence list of weapons which President Saddam Hussein may have so far kept unused. The missiles, which were originally intended to carry nuclear warheads, can be fitted with conventional or chemical charges, and fired from the same launcher as a Scud.

Initial reports of the breach of the INF treaty were circulating in Washington before Christmas. Western diplomatic sources said news of the secret shipment of missiles came originally from Turkey. Senior Pentagon officials referred to the possibility that "not all Saddam's Scuds were what they seemed to be".

These reports were given little official endorsement at a time when Mr Gorbachev was considered to be trustworthy and to have a high degree of control of his military. Recent events – and new discoveries of Soviet treaty violations in East Germany – have led to a revaluation. Yesterday James Baker, the Secretary of State, confirmed earlier reports of American frustration of Soviet attempts to evade commitments made under the CFE accords.

The Iraqi possession of SS-12s is still a highly debated issue in Washington. One senior State Department source said he had seen nothing that lent itself to the description of the disputed missile. No photograph of an SS-12 in Iraq has been seen, according to normally well-placed sources. The White House is said, however, to be taking seriously its new intelligence report.

Baghdad Radio, quoting a foreign ministry statement, said yesterday that Iraq had decided to cut diplomatic relations with the US Britain, France, Italy, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Baghdad also accused allied forces of trying to bomb Iraq out of the 20th century and said President Bush would be a target for revenge for the rest of his life. The radio, monitored by the BBC, said President Bush and his allies "are doing what they had threatened Iraq with ... they want to expel Iraq from the 20th century".

It claimed that 21 days of allied air raids "targeted all scientific, economic and cultural installations and went beyond that to target medical installations, places of worship, and sacred sites". Allied air raids have caused severe food shortages in Iraq, forcing residents to pay more than £1,280 for a sack of flour, Iran's national news agency Irna reported.

Allied aircraft yesterday knocked a 160ft span out of a key bridge across the river Tigris in Baghdad. Two American F15 fighters, on combat patrol, shot down two Iraqi MiG 21 jets and may have downed two SU 25 ground-attack planes a military spokesman said. "Preliminary reports indicate they were heading towards Iran," Brigadier-General Richard I. Neal said. He said 120 Iraqi planes had now sought safety in Iran.

British sources said last night that American B52 bombers had been switched from bombing the Republican Guard to targeting the Iraqi frontline forces in southern Kuwait. The B52s, which use a mixture of free-fall 1,000lb and 2,000lb bombs, and guided bombs, will now pound the frontline regular forces, the sources said.

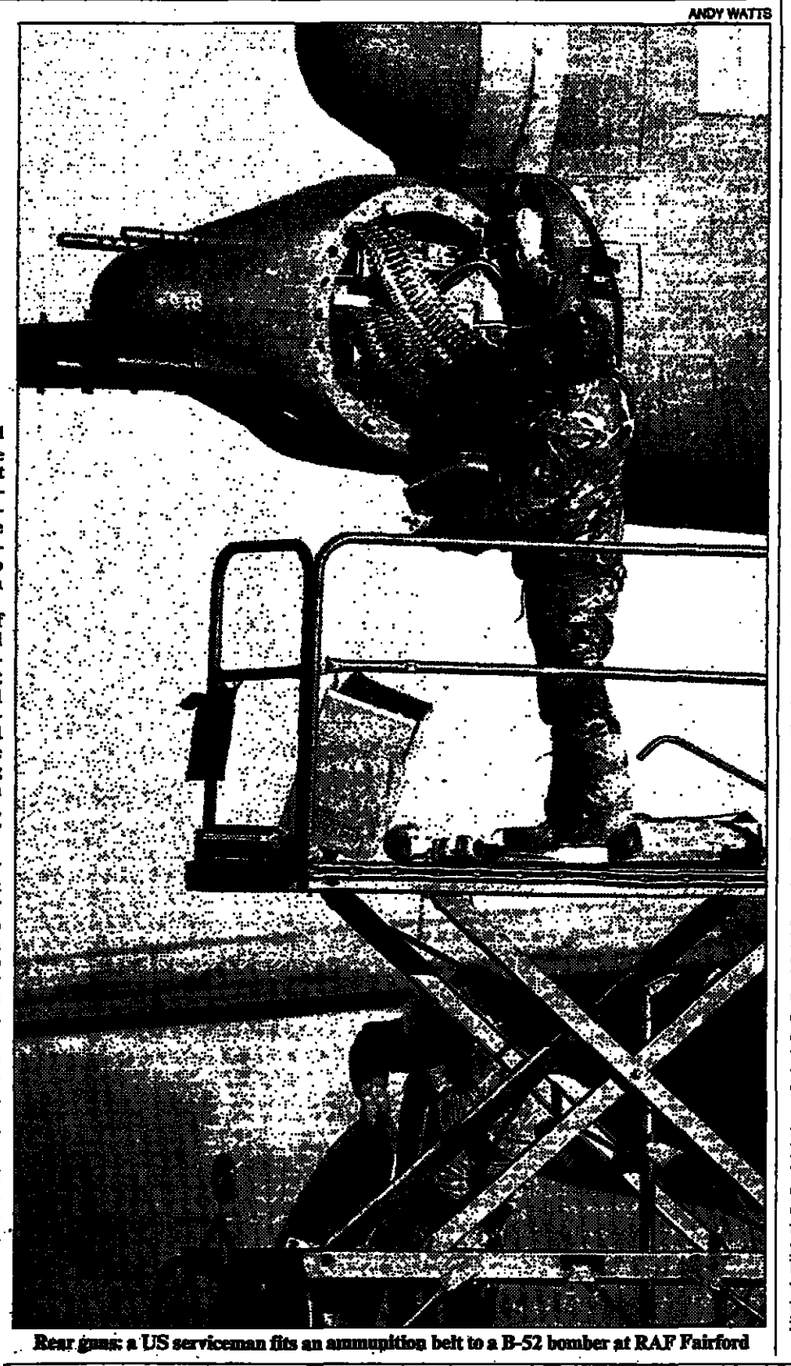
Millions of leaflets, calling on the Iraqis to surrender, have been dropped over Kuwait in the past few weeks, some of them warning that their time was coming for mass bombardment.

General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of American-led forces in the Gulf, said Iraqi forces had no

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ANDY WATTS



Rear guns: a US serviceman fits an ammunition belt to a B-52 bomber at RAF Fairford

Labour MPs in Supper Club seek limits on war policy

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR frontbenchers, including members of the shadow cabinet, have been meeting secretly to attempt to change the leadership's stance on the Gulf war.

MPs on the soft left have held regular meetings in a group called the Supper Club because they discuss tactics over an evening meal. They want to prevent the leadership supporting what they see as an extension of the aims of the war and they claim that up to 100 Labour MPs have reservations about the position taken by Neil Kinnock and Gerald Kaufman, shadow foreign secretary.

The Times has obtained minutes of a meeting of the group at the Commons on Monday. Supper Club members include John Prescott, the transport spokesman, Jo Richardson, spokesman on women's rights, and Michael Meacher, social security spokesman. Other frontbenchers in it include Clare Short, Mark Fisher, Joan Ruddock, and Frank Doran.

Mr Kinnock, who has learnt of the meetings, was reported last night to feel badly let down and furious about the behaviour of his colleagues. One member of the shadow cabinet was reported to have described the meetings as treacherous. Another said that those attending were guilty of "crass stupidity".

Senior Labour sources said that many of those attending had had the chance to discuss the party line in the shadow cabinet, Labour's national executive committee (NEC) or the parliamentary Labour party. Within days of those bodies reaching a stance, they were meeting in secret to undermine the leadership position, the sources said.

The group, formed at the time of Mr Prescott's challenge for the deputy leadership, is worried that the leadership may use the part of United Nations resolution 678 that refers to the restoration of international peace and security as authority for backing the invasion of Iraq, the destruction of Saddam Hussein's military machine and even the toppling of the Iraqi dictator. The leadership has emphasised that it does not support the toppling of Saddam as a war aim; but it has interpreted the resolution as meaning that war can proceed until Saddam can no longer threaten his neighbours.

Minutes of Monday's meeting, written by Mr Fisher, the arts spokesman, record those present as being "extremely worried" that the phrase about restoring peace and security "could be used later, or interpreted now, as widening the war aims".



The meeting agreed that the MPs, as individuals, should seek out Mr Kaufman to "urge him to make clear in his speech that this phrase did not, and would not, be used to widen the war aims".

Ms Short, spokesman on social security, tabled an amendment for yesterday's meeting of the parliamentary Labour party (PLP) opposing extension of the war aims along the lines feared by the group, but in the event she withdrew it and the leadership's line was backed by a heavy majority.

However, Monday's meeting also agreed to plan for next Wednesday's PLP meeting by putting down a motion clarifying the commitment to "the most limited war aims."

The PLP last night heavily backed the line Mr Kinnock has taken throughout the confrontation.

Britain gets the shivers

Britain is shivering in the grip of the coldest snap for four years. Weather forecasters believe that day-time temperatures could remain below freezing for several days, with up to a foot of snow falling in the South-East ..... Page 20

Taste of Siberia, page 6

Little credit

Hole-in-the-wall cash dispensers were criticised yesterday by the Consumers' Association which says that banks and building societies are too ready to believe the machine ahead of the human when there are discrepancies ..... Page 6

Leading article, page 11

A good image

John Major's election as Conservative leader has transformed the party's image. The latest Mori poll for Times Newspapers shows a sharp difference in the number of people who believe that the Tories are too dominated by their leader ..... Page 7

Afrikaner plea

South Africa's Conservative party, enraged by the ending of apartheid, has stepped up demands for an independent Afrikaner homeland .... Page 9

Baker worries



James Baker, the US Secretary of State, has urged Moscow to resume the path of reform. He criticised the crackdown in the Baltic republics and said: "Perestroika cannot succeed at gunpoint." ..... Page 8

Adams fined

Tony Adams, the England footballer jailed for drink-driving, has been fined £1,000 by the Football Association for gesturing at Queen's Park Rangers fans ..... Page 36

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Propaganda leaflets play on Iraqi hunger

From Christopher Walker in Eastern Saudi Arabia

GULF allies have stepped up their psychological war against dug-in Iraqi troops in Kuwait to try to persuade large numbers to surrender before or soon after the land war begins.

In the latest move, millions of Arabic-language "invitation cards" illustrated with cartoons, above, have been dropped offering the hungry Iraqis traditional Arab hospitality if they cross the lines. The tactic has been supervised by Arab intelligence officers. "The new card is designed to play on the feeling of Arab brotherhood that we hope will survive this conflict," one Saudi official explained. "One of its strongest points will be the information we are now receiving that the Iraqi troops are running badly short of rations."

Adjacent to the thumb-nail sketch of smiling Iraqi deserters enjoying a sumptuous bowl of fresh fruit as well as Arabic coffee and tea, the cardssay: "You are invited to join the joint forces with the

Continued on page 20, col 1

Jaguar to cut 1,000 jobs as sales fall

By Kevin Eason
Motoring Correspondent

THE luxury car company Jaguar yesterday moved to cut its workforce by more than 1,000 and radically reduce output as sales in Britain slumped.

January figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders showed total UK sales down by 20.8 per cent to 163,534, underlining the depth of the recession which is costing jobs and forcing thousands of car workers on to short-time.

The fact that Jaguar sales almost halved last month hastened the company's decision to lay off its 8,500 workers for two weeks out of every three until the end of March. Jaguar, which suffered a 25 per cent drop in sales in Britain last year, saw sales fall further from 1,530 in January 1990 to 806 last month.

While other carmakers in the luxury sector have been badly hit, the situation is so bad at Jaguar that analysts in the United States have told the firm's parent business, Ford, that it should sell off the company it bought only 18 months ago for £1.6 billion.

Unions will meet management today to learn details of a company plan to reduce the workforce by 1,000 in a voluntary severance scheme.

Tired Gorbachev makes television plea for unity

From Mary Dejevsky in Moscow

PRESIDENT Gorbachev, threatened with a huge boycott of his nationwide referendum on the future of the Soviet Union, appeared on Soviet television last night to appeal for unity and co-operation to save the integrity of the country.

Looking tired and stumbling several times over his script, Mr Gorbachev said that separatism threatened to "wrest many people from their homes and destroy a familiar way of life".

"My firm conviction," he said, "is the need to preserve the union." It offered "guaranteed security, a thriving market, powerful science and technology, a society based on justice and solidarity and a reliable future for all".

Six of the Soviet Union's 15 republics – the three Baltic states, Armenia, Georgia and Moldavia – have said they have no intention of holding the referendum, while the Russian Federation is discussing the inclusion of additional questions which would enhance the republic's authority in relation to the centre.

The referendum, scheduled for March 17, asks all Soviet citizens whether they support a "renewed Union of Soviet Socialist Republics" with equal rights for all republics and citizens.

Shortly before the president's address, the Russian leader, Boris Yeltsin, emphasised the widening gap between the central authorities and the republic by announcing the appointment of a 23-member advisory team, many of whose members were closely associated with Mr Gorbachev in the early years of perestroika.

● WASHINGTON: The US, seeking to maintain cordial relations with Moscow while underlining its support for the Baltic republics, pledged direct medical aid yesterday to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia as well as to the cancer victims of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

Pound goes above $2

By Our City Staff

THE pound closed at more than two dollars in London yesterday for the first time in almost ten years. Sterling gained almost two cents to end at $2.0010 as central banks in Europe had only limited success in preventing a continuation of the dollar's falls.

The dollar has been sliding since the end of last week when German interest rates were raised and US rates reduced. Sterling was last above two dollars as a result of monetarist policy adopted by Margaret Thatcher in 1979 and 1980 which took interest rates up to 17 per cent.

Currency dealers attributed the $2 pound to long-term weakness in the dollar.

Sterling soars, page 21

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Abbado's fearful Philharmonic cancels London

By Simon Tait
Arts Correspondent

THE Vienna Philharmonic, one of the world's leading symphony orchestras, has cancelled its concert at the Festival Hall in London on February 18 for fear of a terrorist attack on its British Airways flight. The orchestra is also trying to arrange a flight to Washington, its next booking, by an airline which is not British or American.

The decision to abandon the London concert was taken after a vote by the orchestra not to travel on routes which could be a target for terrorists. There is a growing alarm among orchestras at the prospect of travelling by such routes. This Saturday the St Louis Symphony Orchestra was to have given a concert at the Festival Hall but has also cancelled for fear of terrorist attack.

British Airways bookings on transatlantic flights are 50 per cent down on normal. American companies have told executives not to fly to Britain, and celebrities in the United States such as Sylvester Stallone and Clint Eastwood have put off visits. The airline said, however, that bookings on European flights had not dropped significantly.

The Vienna Philharmonic, whose conductor Claudio Abbado is also the music director of the Berlin Philharmonic, was to have given a concert of Mozart and Mahler at the South Bank with top seat prices of £60, double that commanded by the main London orchestras. Last night the orchestra's agents, Harold Holt Ltd, said that it was hoped to reschedule the concert for May.

A South Bank concert by the Vienna Philharmonic in October, conducted by Riccardo Muti, sold only 72 per cent of tickets, but Harold Holt denied that the real reason for cancellation was that the latest concert had sold less than 70 per cent of seats. A spokeswoman said: "The tickets were expensive, but it's a bit like the mountain coming to Muhammad – there are a lot of people who very much want to hear this orchestra and can't go to Vienna. The Gulf crisis seems to have altered people's views about entertainment, but we believe the Festival Hall concert would have filled 80 to 90 per cent of seats."

Nicholas Snowman, artistic director of the South Bank, said that it was too late to fill either the Vienna Philharmonic or St Louis Symphony bookings. "It is worrying and the real losers are the British public who rarely get a chance to see the Vienna Philharmonic, one of the finest symphony orchestras in the world. We have been hoping to negotiate a closer relationship with the orchestra so that we can see more of it, and still hope to do so."



Abbado: hopes concert can be rescheduled

Strategy in the limelight keeps Saddam's advisers in the dark

JOURNALISTS may be frustrated about the management of Gulf war news but no one could accuse the Americans of carrying out a secret war. Almost every move, from the arrival time of reinforcements to the deployment positions of carrier battle groups, and now the clear hint of an approaching land battle, have been promulgated, either to television cameras in Riyadh and Washington or in briefings by officials in Pentagon backrooms.

How, one might ask, can President Saddam Hussein be duped or surprised if he knows what to expect round every corner? Take, for example, the speculation that American and British forces might be involved in a flanking manoeuvre to the far west, across the Saudi-Iraqi border, bypassing the "Maginot line" in southern Kuwait and advancing into Iraq to cut off the Republican Guard divisions from the rear. Although no one in authority has outlined such a strategy, enough information *has* been given to add credence to the reports.

It is now believed, for example, that the British 1st Armoured Division is no longer under the tactical command of the US marines. Until fairly recently the 27,000 men and 170 Challenger tanks of the British division were located with the marines north of Jubayl. Now the 1st Armoured Division has a new tactical commander. The British soldiers have moved to another part of the Saudi desert and are being merged with a very different US corps, equipped with M1A1 tanks, 155mm artillery and multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS). This new "mix and match" could indicate a change in allied planning, the first clear hint, perhaps, that a flanking manoeuvre to the west might pose the greatest threat to Saddam's forces. Might this spur

How could the Iraqi leader be taken by surprise, when every allied move is examined by the camera in a television war? Michael Evans suggests an answer

Saddam to launch an offensive with seven or eight divisions before General Norman Schwarzkopf, the allied commander, is able to put his plan into practice?

The answers to these questions provide an insight into the way the allied campaign has been waged and also underline the way General Schwarzkopf has included a large degree of flexibility in his planning, to enable force deployments to be switched as events unfold.

First, the almost daily announcements in Washington about troop deployments, possible timings of a ground war and the state of US military readiness have been unavoidable because this is a television war. Announcements are made with American media deadlines in mind. British officials concede that since this is largely an American war — in terms of forces deployed to the Gulf — it has to be conducted in "the American way", with plenty of fanfare and trumpeting and the odd appalling indiscretion. Certain senior British officials have been heard to ask: "Why can't these American generals keep quiet?"

Second, the allied command consists of forces from 28 countries, some of them participating for such overtly political reasons that President Bush has had to spend a lot of his time keeping them in the know, writing letters to encourage them that the ground war is about to start — "by the third week of February", according to his letter to President Mubarak of Egypt — and then allowing his aides to spill the beans to the rest of the world, Baghdad included.

However, this openness is not as innocent as it might seem. When an American or British commander reveals before the cameras that allied air raids have destroyed a certain number of Iraqi tanks or artillery, preferably with pictures to back up the claimed hits, one of the aims is to get the message across to the Baath headquarters command in Baghdad, in case, as seems highly likely, they are not full aware of what is going on in the theatre of operations. "We want them to know what is happening," one senior British official said. "We want them to know that there are 22 bridges down and that the Republican Guards have suffered another 500 saturation bombing raids."

So, too, a suspicion in Baghdad that British and American heavy armour may be congregating to the west might force Saddam to consider diverting some of his best units, even the Republican Guard, to new positions to counter such a move. But if he orders any of his units to change positions, they will immediately be vulnerable to air bombardment. He dare not ask the Republican Guard to come out from the bunkers until the ground war has begun. By then it might be too late. So, hints of changing allied strategy could cause uncertainty in Baghdad. Herein lies the potential for an allied surprise attack.

As for Saddam's option of mounting a large-scale offensive across the border, it cannot be ruled out. But when the smaller-scale raids were launched last week at one particular point, a long, armoured convoy making its way to the border had great difficulty getting through the elaborate minefields and other obstacles constructed by their own forces.

One tactical gaffe: why does everyone now know that allied tanks have yellow ribbons attached to make sure that Soviet-made tanks in the coalition forces are not mistaken for identical models on the Iraqi side? Iraq has already demonstrated its expertise in deception and decoy, placing cardboard tanks and missiles among the real ones. Presumably all Iraqi tanks are now flying yellow ribbons. Even though the colour of the allied ribbons will change from day to day when the ground war begins, there would seem to be plenty of scope here for confusion.

Deadly recipe, page 14

WASHINGTON

Allies draw up blueprint for just peace in Middle East

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

JAMES Baker, the US Secretary of State, yesterday unveiled Washington's preliminary thinking on how to achieve a lasting post-war Middle East peace, making it clear that the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Iraq would be a central part of that process.

His testimony to the House of Representatives foreign affairs committee is thought to have closely mirrored the conclusions of a day-long meeting between leading British and American officials held behind closed doors at the State Department on Monday, the first such consultations the administration has held with another country.

Though officials were reluctant to discuss that meeting, it is understood that both teams agreed that new, strengthened Middle East security structures would be essential after the war but that the American and British military presences should be reduced as quickly as possible. If there was a point of difference, one American source suggested, it was over the British preference for an international peace conference to resolve the Palestinian issue.

Mr Baker told the congressmen that to "redeem the sacrifices" of allied servicemen who would die in the Gulf "we must fashion a peace which is worthy of their struggle", but acknowledged that the war had stirred "the deepest passions" and that "tough times lie ahead". He identified five separate challenges. The first was to develop new security arrangements for the Gulf that would deter aggression, preserve territorial security and facilitate the peaceful resolutions of disputes. The Gulf states should take the lead in developing these arrangements, but Iran and Iraq and other regional powers should participate. He raised the possibility of some kind of permanent peacekeeping force, possibly under UN auspices.

The second challenge was to reverse years of conventional and non-conventional arms proliferation in the Middle East, and that included preventing the rebuilding of Iraq's military machine.

The third was the region's economic reconstruction and recovery, with emphasis not just on Kuwait but also on Iraq. "The time of reconstruction and recovery should not be the occasion for vengeful actions against a nation forced to war as a result of a dictator's ambition. The secure and prosperous future everone hopes to see in the Gulf has got to include Iraq," he said. The West's role could include the promotion of free trade and growth-orientated policies and "region-wide economic co-operation".

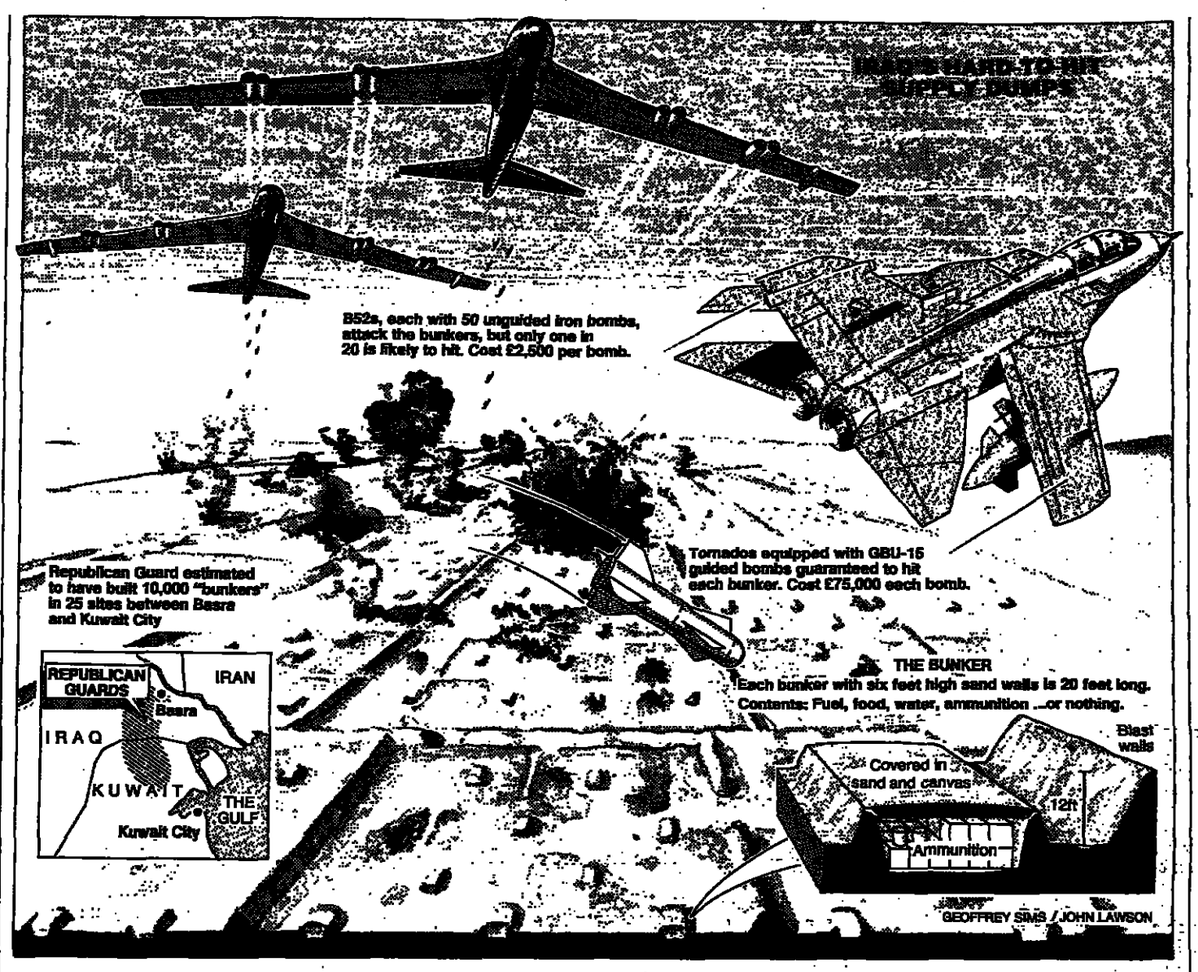
A fourth challenge was to resolve once and for all the Palestinian problem through a peace based on "enduring respect, tolerance and mutual trust". Mr Baker said: "Let's not fool ourselves. The course of this crisis has stirred emotions among Israelis and Palestinians that will not yield easily to conciliation."

Security should not be viewed just in military terms, he said. "We are not going to have lasting peace and well-being in the absence of sound economic growth. We're not going to have sound economic growth if nations are threatened or invaded or if they are squandering precious resources on more and more arms."

The final challenge, he said, was for the United States to develop a comprehensive energy strategy to reduce its dependence on Middle East oil.

Mr Baker emphasised that new settlements could not simply be imposed on the Middle East, and that there had to be extensive consultations with every nation involved in the conflict.

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BATTLE TACTICS

Iraqi deception costly for allies

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE Iraqis have well learned the Russian art of *maskirovka*, a deception technique — and their skill is presenting the allies with a complex and costly tactical problem which could delay the start of the land offensive. Throughout northern Kuwait and southern Iraq the Republican Guard have built at least 25 huge supply dumps which, from the air, appear to be row upon row of ammunition bunkers.

Coalition air forces have mounted round-the clock bombing sorties against the positions and the French have even released pictures of the emplacements showing the damage caused by their Jaguar strike aircraft against them. Analysts now believe that many of the bunkers are decoys designed around the Russian deception technique now used widely by the Iraqi army.

Some of the bunkers, little more than sand scrapes dug six feet into the desert and surrounded by six feet high sand walls, do contain ammunition. Others are filled with fuel, food, or water. But up to half are empty, and it is impossible to tell from the air just which is which.

Each of the bunkers — and there could be as many as 10,000 — could be individually destroyed by "smart" bombs such as the GBU-15 which are designed to take out small targets. The pilot of the aircraft can guide the bomb from a simple control column in his cockpit and virtually gurantee accuracy to within a few feet. Each GBU-15 bomb costs $150,000 (£78,000) and even in a war where cost appears not to be a consideration, such wasteful expenditure is wasteful.

The alternative is to "carpet bomb" the entire area with iron bombs costing up to $5,000 each and which can be dropped by B52s. But these bombs do not approach the accuracy of a smart bomb.

ALLIED WAR IN THE GULF: THE FACTS

ALLIED FORCES

SORTIES: More than 46,000 allied air missions have been flown since the war began.

LOSSES:

Allies have lost 42 missing in action, including 24 Americans, eight British and one Italian. 30 killed in action, including 12 Americans and 18 Saudis. 22 Americans are listed as non-combat deaths. Further 105 American non-combat deaths in Operation Desert Shield before the war. Twelve prisoners of war, including two British. 27 allied planes lost, 21 in combat — 14 American, five British, one Kuwaiti and one Italian.

CLAIMS:

U.S. F-15 fighters shot down two Iraqi MiG-21 jets and may have downed two SU-25 ground-attack planes trying to flee to Iran. An Iraqi patrol boat was sunk and two others apparently escaped in a clash with Saudi coastal patrol craft during the battle for Khafji last week.

An allied aircraft destroyed a Scud missile launcher in northwest Iraq. British Tornado and Buccaneer jets destroyed four more bridges and French planes continued bombing raids on Iraqi Republican Guard positions. The Al-Jomhouriya bridge, a key bridge over the Tigris in central Baghdad, has been destroyed by missiles.

By allied estimates 10% of Iraqi Army material has been destroyed including 127 planes, 48 naval units, 500 tanks, 37 armoured troop transport vehicles, 400 artillery pieces and 178 vehicles. 850 Iraqis have been taken prisoner.

Israel stepped up its air campaign against the PLO in Lebanon. Seiven guerrilla bases have now been destroyed.

IRAQI FORCES

CLAIMS: Iraq said allies had carried out 263 more air raids and missile attacks yesterday and claimed two warplanes and one missile had been shot down. Baghdad radio said that the attacks did not achieve any of their objectives. The radio station accused allied forces of trying to "bomb Iraq out of the 20th century" and said that terrorist attacks against Western targets would increase.

Iraqi authorities said that about 150 people were killed by an allied air raid on the southern city of Nassariyah.

ALLIED WAR AIMS

UN Security Council resolution 678 authorises Kuwait's allies to "use all necessary means" to uphold previous resolutions calling for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate government. Resolution 678 also calls on the nations assisting Kuwait "to restore international peace and security in the area".

MOSCOW

Gorbachev Gulf policy attacked

From ROBERT SEELY AND MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

SENIOR Soviet strategists yesterday attacked President Gorbachev's Gulf war policy, urging greater support for Iraq. They voiced their criticism of Soviet policy at a meeting with Arab ambassadors, including Iraq's, at the Palestine Liberation Organisation's mission in Moscow.

"We signed a treaty with Iraq to fight against imperialism and zionism. Now our mouths are closed and we are not allowed to remind ourselves of the clauses of that treaty," said Stanislav Korolev, professor at the military institute of the Ministry of Defence, referring to the Soviet Union's 1972 treaty with Iraq.

Sections of the Soviet military and political establishment are furious at the policy first pursued by the ex-foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze, which tied Soviet Gulf policy to the United Nations resolutions, effectively sanctioning Western intervention.

A backstage struggle to alter the passive Soviet support for the US-led coalition has been under way since Mr Shevardnadze's first meetings with the US Secretary of State, James Baker, immediately after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Major-General Viktor Filatov, a military academic, told ambassadors: "The incapable foreign ministry under Shevardnadze made all the world our enemy."

Meanwhile, a four-day visit to Moscow by the Syrian defence minister drew to an end yesterday with expressions of Soviet-Syrian agreement on the war. According to the Soviet foreign ministry spokesman, Vitali Churkin, the two sides expressed "decisive condemnation" of Iraqi aggression and its refusal to withdraw its troops from Kuwait.

Syrians in move to get Scuds from Pyongyang

A REPORTED new arms deal between Syria, Libya and North Korea, involving the sale of ballistic missiles to Damascus, has raised new fears that some countries in the Middle East are taking steps to improve their own military capabilities while the rest of the world is focusing on the war with Iraq.

According to intelligence sources, Pyongyang will sell Syria "dozens" of Scud C missiles — known as Scud PiP in North Korea — an adaptation of the Soviet Scud B, which has been fired against Israel and Saudi Arabia in the present conflict.

The sources said that, unlike the two Iraqi-modified versions of the missile, which have a reduced warhead, the North Korean Scud C has been extensively redesigned to carry a far greater 1,100 lb warhead.

The North Koreans have demanded full payment in cash on delivery, the sources said.

The Syrians asked Colonel Muammar Gadaffi, the Libyan leader, for help and he is understood to have agreed to finance the sale, on condition that he got 40 per cent of the missiles — terms similar to a deal with China last year

Syrian promise

London — Although the progress of the war was the primary subject when Farouk al-Shara, the Syrian foreign minister, met Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, yesterday, Mr Shara also promised that his government would do its best to secure the release of British hostages in Lebanon. Mr Shara accused President Saddam Hussein of living in a "world of illusion" and said that his stance would lead only to more destruction and casualties.

US chemical hint

Geneva — The United States has no intention of ruling out the use of chemical weapons if Iraq attacks coalition forces with them, Stephen Ledogar, a chief US arms negotiator, said in an interview published yesterday. "The US position is that we will never be the first to use chemical weapons. On the other hand, if chemical weapons are first used on us or on our immediate allies in a conflict, we reserve the right to retaliate with chemical weapons." *(Reuter)*

World war fear

Paris — Seven out of 10 French people think the Gulf conflict could degenerate into a third world war, according to an opinion poll by the BVA group for the weekly magazine *Paris Match*. It gave no indication how those responding thought a world war might break out but 70 per cent said it could happen. A total of 27 per cent did not believe a world conflict would result from the Gulf war, while 3 per cent had no opinion. *(Reuter)*

Restoring image

Brussels — The Belgian government is campaigning to improve its standing among allies who have criticised its reluctant commitment to the Gulf war. Wilfried Martens, the prime minister, has made a television broadcast telling Belgians to face their responsibilities and a speech to the World Economic Forum at Davos in Switzerland. The foreign ministry held a briefing yesterday to rebut charges that Belgium's response has been ambivalent and feeble.

Weather break

London — Public weather forecasts for the Gulf region have been suspended by the Meteorological Office at Bracknell, Berkshire, on the ground that forecasts might give Iraq clues to the possible timing of an allied land attack. But Iraqi commanders are unlikely to be fretting over the suspension of British forecasts. "The MoD are living in the Victorian era. Anyone can get pictures from satellites," said a sceptical source at the Met Office.

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Charles Bremner

CNN complex no joke for armchair war addicts

It was bound to happen. American psychiatrists have diagnosed a new behavioural disorder called "the CNN complex". Otherwise healthy citizens are said to be succumbing to an addiction to the Cable News Network and its 24-hour news on the Gulf war.

"We've found that some people have become anxious when they're away from the coverage," Dr James Turner, of the Memorial Medical Centre in Savannah, Georgia, said. "They're worn out physically and mentally from riding the roller-coaster of every rumour." CNN addicts are said to get an adrenalin high without the risk and patients are being put on a low-CNN diet.

The medical complaints about CNN are not the only ones. Three weeks into the war the network is taking fire from friend and foe alike for its coverage of the first "real-time" war. Polls show that most people believe Peter Arnett of CNN, the lone



American correspondent in Baghdad, is merely serving Iraqi propaganda. Conservatives have taken to calling the network "Scudavision", or, as one of them said this week, it is a forum for Baghdad to turn public opinion against the United States.

The rival networks, miffed at CNN's glory, are sniping at the wisdom of delivering non-stop raw, unedited news, a very different product from the packaged and polished version traditionally delivered by ABC, NBC and CBS.

CNN executives say this is simply sour grapes or blaming the messenger for the message. Anyway, they say, it is too late to "disinvent" the technology that has made the company the electronic bulletin board used by all sides in the Gulf war.

Perhaps the CNN debate is merely a symptom of an irony that is becoming more and more apparent in America: despite the huge coverage, very little news has emerged from the Gulf. Thanks to tight official control and the remote operations, the conflict has so far been defined through a few graphic images such as flashes in the night sky

"It's really the first war that reporters aren't allowed to get close enough to really cover," *Newsweek* magazine said. The lack of visible blood and low casualty figures have started to breed a more light-hearted approach on the home front. Gulf-slang has become hip from office memos to the late-night talk shows. "Scud-off" is a new put-down in school playgrounds.

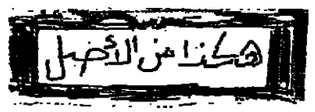
Television comedians are gingerly inserting Gulf gags in their routines, most of them innocuous or anti-Iraq. Bill McCarty, a stand-up comic, mocks the idea of an Iraqi terrorist strike in New York, a city where most taxi-drivers come from the Third World. "They want to come here, they want to terrorise people, they want to wreak havoc? Let them drive a cab like everyone else," he says.

Some of the comics have a sharper edge. George Tingle, a night-club performer, mimics President Bush in prayer: "We're Americans," he intones. "We're entitled to 12 miles to the gallon, Lord." Mr Tingle gets big laughs with his line that Kuwait has less oil than Exxon spilled last year. "We should just have invaded Exxon. They're right on 51st Street and the cost of the war would be a four-dollar cab ride."

During past wars, soldiers have left their wives with babies before going off to fight. In this war, thousands of American servicemen have done the next-best thing, visiting sperm banks. Commercial companies are reporting a rush of visits from departing servicemen anxious to ensure progeny should they die or be disabled. "It is a way for some men to take action when they are feeling helpless, a way to leave a part of themselves behind, a way to find meaning in their life," Gary Emery, a Los Angeles psychologist, said.

Most of the sperm is being left by married men, apparently at their wives' insistence, according to the banks. But a substantial number of unmarried donors are also reported to be turning up.

The California Cryobank is offering special rates to military men, charging $90 *(£45)* for six months' storage instead of the usual $300.



هكذا من الأصل

FRONT LINE

Rehearsal for battle pleases the elusive brigadier

From PHILIP JACOBSON WITH THE 7TH ARMOURED BRIGADE

IN PITCH darkness, the largest operational concentration of British military power assembled since the second world war is preparing for what could be the last big field exercise before the allied ground assault on Iraq's defensive line is launched.

For Brigadier Patrick Cordingley, commander of the 7th Armoured Brigade, it amounts to a full dress rehearsal for the day when his units move forward to make contact with the enemy.

This is the first time the brigade has been involved in a full divisional exercise with the rest of the British 1st Armoured Division, and the potential for what the brigadier calls "Murphy's" — from Murphy's law, stating that if anything can go wrong, it will — is considerable. Manoeuvring several thousand vehicles in the tightly confined exercise zone requires the most intricate advance planning. The sheer volume of traffic being shepherded into separate approach lanes, the juggling of refuelling points and form-up positions, and the timing of convoy runs mean that any serious deviation from schedules could turn the operation sour with dismaying speed.

On the eve of the exercise, Brigadier Cordingley briefed the key officers in his order group in the cramped, dimly lit command post consisting of a group of tracked vehicles parked back to back and enveloped in camouflage netting. Inside each of them sits a team of specialists, poring over large-scale maps of the brigade's probable target area while phones beep non-stop and radio traffic crackles faintly in the background. It is here that the essential knitting together of different arms and echelons of the brigade takes place, with Brigadier Cordingley presiding over the process rather like one imagines the chairman of the board of a big multinational corporation would conduct his business.

For production lines, market research, distribution and sales, read the artillery, the engineers, air liaison and forecasts from the meteorological and the chemical warfare branches. The difference of course, is that thousands of British lives will be at stake when the 7th Armoured Brigade goes into action: small mistakes, marginal oversights even, could have bloody consequences. "This exercise is all about fine-tuning, knocking out every snag as it comes up instead of risking an accumulation of cock-ups on the day," Brigadier Cordingley observed, adjusting his angular frame more comfortably against the door of an armoured vehicle.

Each of the officers present — some trim and fit and as smartly turned out as campaigning permits, others reassuringly dishevelled — has his clearly defined responsibilities. But the buck stops with him, now and on the day fighting begins.

Once the exercise is under way, Brigadier Cordingley is constantly on the move, racing alongside a column in his Land Rover, leaping out to chivvy a startled military police corporal over traffic flow, ducking into the main signals post: his driver (who postponed university entrance to come back and serve with the brigade) occasionally complains of the difficulty of being in the right place at the right time for so elusive a boss. The brigadier's personal tank, a Challenger, is always on hand in battle line.

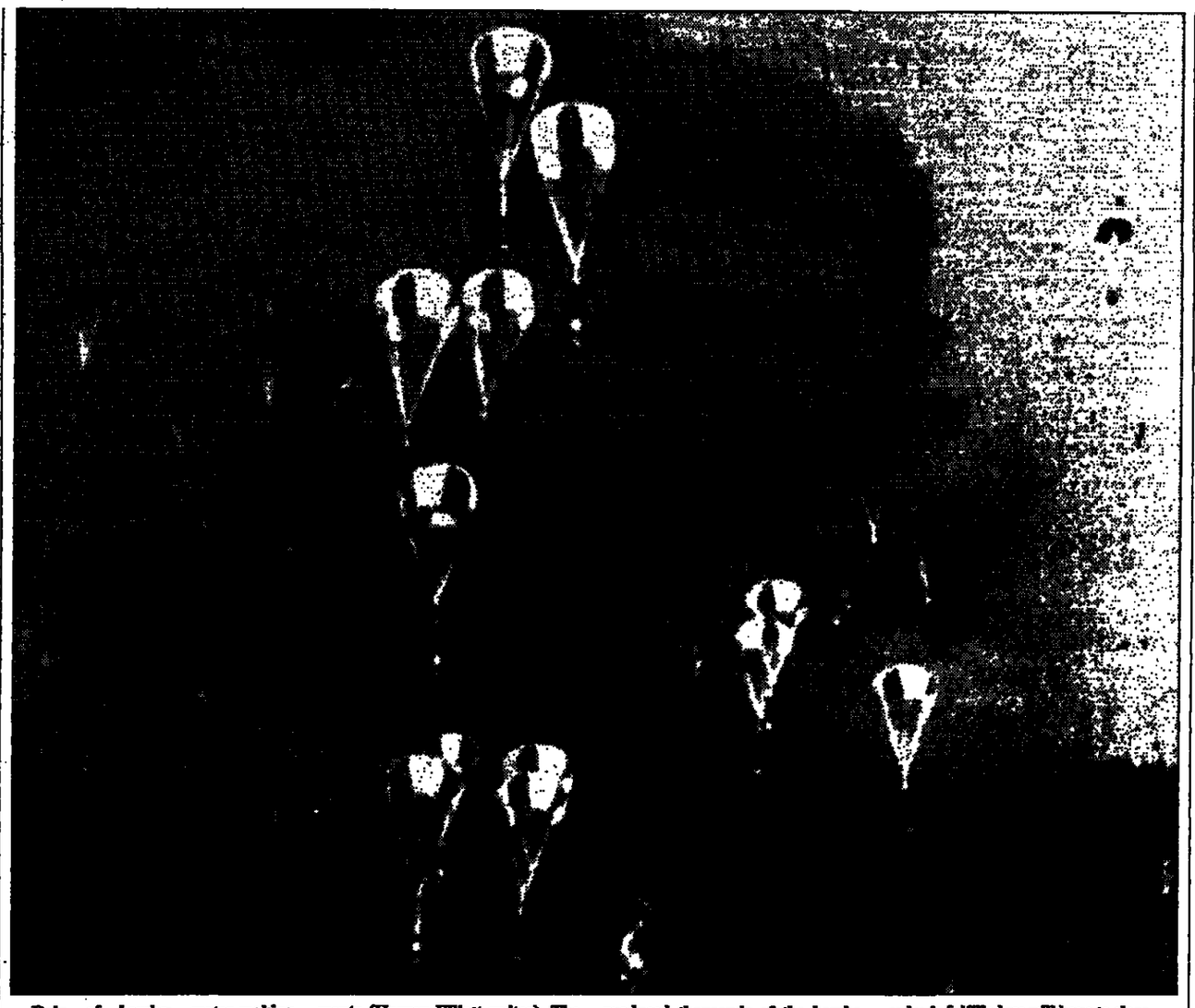
A helicopter ride over the main assembly area with Brigadier Cordingley just before dusk provided a breathtaking bird's eye view of a modern army forming up for a move.

Somewhere in the darkness Brigadier Cordingley escaped us in his tank, churning off to observe some other aspect of the operation. We did not catch up with him until after dawn next day. Tired, unshaven but clearly very chirpy, he was collared by BBC television's Martin Bell to pass judgement on the night's events. "Absolutely delighted," he declared, steaming mug of tea in one hand. "I've never been involved in a more complicated affair and although there were the inevitable Murphys, I think the whole thing went off extremely well."

Of course, it would be different and more difficult under enemy fire, he agreed, but in the main objective of the exercise had been to identify the areas in which the brigade should put in a final bout of training.

So is the real thing now just around the corner? Brigadier Cordingley played his famous straight bat: "I know the men are anxious to get it over with if we have to do the business, but you see the air war is obviously going very well and I'm sure we are all happy to see that carry on."

(This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)



Rain of bombs: crater-making explosives and mines parachuting down onto their target. The RAF is rapidly using up its supply of these JP-233 bombs, which have proved successful in destroying Iraqi airstrips, with no chance of replacements (Harvey Elliott writes). The weapons, which are dropped from Tornados, are designed to penetrate the thick concrete of runways and then scatter anti-personnel mines to prevent engineers from repairing them. Hunting Engineering, which produced thousands of the bombs, mainly for the RAF, over the last six years, is closing down the production line with no further orders in the offing. "Regrettably the Americans decided not to join us in the project and once the last export order is fulfilled we will have to close down the production line," said a company official yesterday. "We will, however, keep all the jigs and tools necessary to start again and could reopen the line within a matter of months if asked."

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Raids become routine but the aircrews cannot relax

From LIN JENKINS IN THE GULF

NOT even the comfort of routine could mask the tension as Tornado aircrews prepared to fly into Iraq yesterday in the knowledge that radar activity on the ground had increased.

While the experience of several missions had calmed many nerves, the news that each crew was being watched more closely from the ground intensified the pre-flight anxiety. Nobody tried to reason why, or guess what President Saddam Hussein's next move might be, but each crewman soberly assessed his own thoughts and concentrated on the complex process of planning a mission.

As the Tornados lined up on the taxi way accompanied by two Victors, the petrol stations of the sky, there seemed barely room for them to move. A civilian cargo aircraft landed, a Sea Stallion helicopter hovered 30ft above the runway, and a US navy reconnaissance plane took off before the Tornados could race off down the airfield with a deafening roar.

Their departure allowed no relaxation in the activities of the 1,500-strong team whose work is essential to keep those who sit in the pilot's and navigator's seat airborne. On the far side of the air base bombs were being prepared as far away as possible from where other ground crews were working on the last aircraft to have landed. The aim was to have the planes ready to fly again within two hours.

In Billy Smart's, the colourful tent which houses the canteen, men on their break queued for lunch. Wing Commander John Broadbent visibly relaxed when he climbed from his aircraft, flying helmet in hand, and announced that his mission, destroying an Iraqi road bridge, had been successful. Unable like everyone else to predict Saddam's next move, he insisted that the success of his 10 sorties did not engender complacency.

"My ability to cope with the pressures is improving, but that is only what you would expect as you get more experience and comfortable with your own feelings. There is still plenty of danger out there and we have not dropped our guard by any stretch of the imagination," he said.

"There are a lot of things out there which clearly have the potential to hurt you. As far as we can gather he still has half of his air force surviving, you can never discount a second punch. The fact that we have flown essentially unopposed in the air for the past three weeks does not mean that at some stage some kind of gesture is not worthwhile. I don't want to be on the receiving end of that gesture, thank you very much."

Other pilots told yesterday how they have come to terms with the possibility that Iraqi civilians might be killed during allied raids on bridges. Squadron Leader Ricky Cobelli and Flight Lieutenant Jeremy Tank said: "Our aim is to get the Iraqis out of Kuwait. The only way we are going to do it is to cut their supply lines."

Their attack on two bridges in a built-up area was launched at a time when traffic would have been at its heaviest. Squadron Leader Cobelli said, however, that an attack on an urban bridge was exactly the same as targeting oil refineries and airfields, which they had done before the change of allied tactics. "Yes, there will be civilian traffic, but they could well be civilian contractors working on an airfield," he said.

Flight Lieutenant Paddy Teakle had just completed his eleventh sortie of Operation Desert Storm. "You do get more confident, the initial raids were clearly quite frightening, but there are still many threats. It is the surface to air missiles at medium to high range which are the most threat, but none of us knows what might happen next." What he does know, like the other aircrews, is that he is likely to find out within the next few days.

(This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)

KUWAITI AIR FORCE

Pilots' dilemma as homeland hit

From TONY WINTON IN SAUDI ARABIA

FOR a small group of Desert Storm pilots flying bombing missions inside Kuwait, the target is not enemy territory but home.

One of these pilots, Lieutenant Talal Mudhhar, said on Tuesday that Kuwaitis were used to attack Iraqi positions in their own country because they knew the terrain best. Three weeks into the war, after several missions to drop 500lb bombs on his homeland, he accepts the need for the destruction he and his compatriots inflict on Kuwait.

"It won't be our home (again) if we don't bomb it," he said. "We're not too happy about it. It's not something anybody would like to do, really — bomb their own country. If we're asked to do something worse, we would, just to get our land back ... even if there's nothing left of it."

Kuwaiti pilots flew 15 Mirage F1 fighters, 20 A4 Skyhawks, six Hawk trainers and 15 French-made Gazelle helicopters to Saudi Arabia last August 3, the day after Iraq seized their country.

American pilots who fly with the Kuwaitis say they sympathise with their colleagues."How would you feel, wherever you're from, having to go in there and bomb your own country?" asked Captain Mike Kennedy, an F15 pilot. "Bomb your own buildings. Bomb what you've paid a lot of money, a lot of time to build up. And now you're going in there and taking it down. That can't be fun."

Captain Kennedy, attached to the 1st Tactical Fighter Wing, stood beside a row of Kuwaiti planes with the words "Free Kuwait" stencilled on their fuselages. "Bombing anybody's country shouldn't put a smile on anybody's face," he said.

The Kuwaiti pilots said they often flew repeated sorties against the same or similar targets, and that assessing results was difficult. "Everytime we go there, they hear the planes, they hide, so therefore you don't know what you've done," Lieutenant Mudhhar said.

But, whatever the damage, it was worth the cost, he said. "It hurts, but you know the end result will be good. You'll have a place to be. You can live somewhere you'd be proud of. It's better than not having a country."

(This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)

LEBANON

Israelis step up attacks on PLO bases

From JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN BEIRUT

ISRAEL yesterday stepped up its air campaign against pro-Iraqi Palestinian guerrillas in southern Lebanon with lightning helicopter attacks that raised to 11 the number of PLO bases destroyed in two days.

Witnesses in the Iqlim al-Touffah region southeast of Sidon said four gunships attacked two command posts in the villages of Sarba and Houmine with rockets hours after Palestinian guerrillas fired six Katyusha rockets into Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone". There was no immediate word on casualties. Both bases belonged to Yassir Arafat's Fatah faction, which on Tuesday lost nine guerrillas in the most intense Israeli air raid for several years.

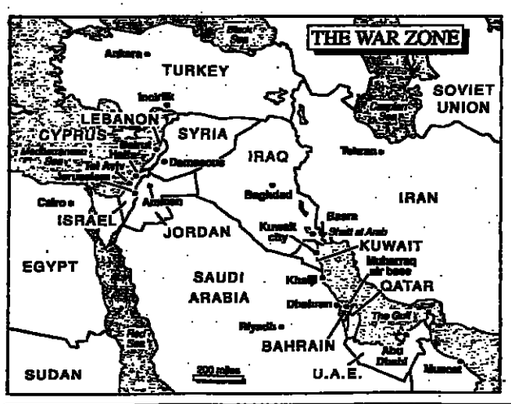
Yesterday's helicopter attack came as the Lebanese army, in a mission bound to put the Lebanese government in crossfire between the PLO and Israel, began deploying 2,000 troops to the south. The most crucial test for President Hrawi's plan to extend his authority in the south will come today if government troops go ahead with the plan to move into the Iqlim al-Touffah, or Apple province. There, some 1,200 PLO guerrillas have established a new platform for rocket attacks against Israel in solidarity with Iraq's missile attacks on the Jewish state.

The pro-Iranian Hezbollah and the mainstream Shia Muslim Amal militia, who are also entrenched in the area, have said they will not oppose the army deployment. But Mr Hrawi has not received clear assurances from the PLO and prospects of Palestinian cooperation look dim.

Israel has made it clear that it will hold Lebanon responsible for every guerrilla rocket attack or infiltration attempt and its proxy force, the South Lebanon Army militia, this week gave a warning that Lebanese troops may die in its retaliatory attacks.

● **JERUSALEM:** The Israeli authorities have restored the press credentials of the *Newsweek* bureau chief in Israel, suspended because the weekly magazine printed a photograph violating military censorship.

The Israeli government press office said yesterday it had restored Theodore Stanger's accreditation on Tuesday after it became clear that the picture in the magazine's February 4 issue came from a photograph agency. It was considering whether to take steps against the agency. *(Reuter)*



Saturday Review

The party as un-American activity

'This is the cancellation of the year by the magazine of the decade and it represents the latest ravage by a most un-American virus. Inappropriateness. There is seemingly no event that can be sure of retaining its meetness while the Gulf war rages. The scrapping of the Vanity Fair *binge is as telling as any, not only because it exports Inappropriateness to the United Kingdom, but also because of the identity of its would-have-been hostess ... Tina Brown who, in an earlier role as editor of* Tatler *in London, had raised socialising to a kind of vocation'*

Alan Franks finds an English woman in New York and New York in an English woman

Plus ...

The British attitude to sex, Max Ernst's painted attitudes to war, David Bailey on fashion photography, Hardy Amies recalls a fashion for thinking Hitler was marvellous

The Times on Saturday: fine writing, among other delicacies

JORDAN

Media slurs provoke broadside from UK

From EDWARD GORMAN IN AMMAN

THE British ambassador to Jordan, concerned at the increasingly pro-Iraqi stance of the Amman media, publicly rejected yesterday allegations that detained Iraqis in Britain have been subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment.

Anthony Reeve took the unusual step of releasing the text of a letter he sent to *Al-Rai*, the leading Arabic daily, in which he refutes claims published by that newspaper that Iraqis have been treated like criminals in Britain as part of a racist policy in violation of all international laws.

So far the paper has declined to publish or even acknowledge the ambassador's letter, publishing instead what one source described as another "abusive" article.

The decision to reveal the text comes amid concern among Western diplomats that Jordanian newspapers and television are becoming slavishly pro-Iraqi and, according to one envoy, are now virtually indistinguishable from domestic Baghdad media.

Envoys fear that ordinary Jordanians, already militant in their support for Baghdad, are not being given a balanced view of the war and that a defeat for President Saddam Hussein could come not only as a surprise but as a deep shock, possibly sparking an even bigger backlash than that which followed the defeat of Nasser in the six-day war of 1967.

Mr Reeve was replying to an article on January 29 by Jumaa Hammad, an *Al-Rai* columnist who claimed that, while Western nationals held in Iraq enjoy a luxurious lifestyle in five-star hotels, Iraqis in Britain are being interrogated like prisoners of war, being kept in isolation from the rest of society and treated in an inhuman manner.

Mr Hammad said Britain was openly and flagrantly exercising a racist policy in violation of all international law and that this was a sign of the new world order to come as a result of American and British "aggression" against Iraq.

In his reply, dated January 31, Mr Reeve points out that all Iraqis detained in Britain have been treated as protected persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention and that British ministers have underlined their determination to comply with all the government's obligations under the terms of the convention. Visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross have been carried out and further inspections of conditions under which Iraqis are being held will take place later this month.

Of 33 Iraqis detained on January 25 who were studying at British universities under the sponsorship of the Iraqi military attache, all but one have been identified as serving military officers, all had admitted this to be the case, and all were being treated as prisoners of war under the Third Geneva Convention.

By contrast, Mr Reeve notes, allied airmen held in Iraq have been denied access to the ICRC. "Nor has the ICRC been notified of the names of any of these airmen," Mr Reeve writes.

"Instead the prisoners have been interviewed on television to make statements apparently obtained under duress. This is directly contrary to articles 13 and 17 of the Third Geneva Convention, which state that prisoners of war must be protected at all times against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults and public curiosity."

Mr Reeve also criticised Iraq's decision to send prisoners to "strategic sites" and notes claims that some have been wounded and one killed as a result. This, he says, is also in direct violation of the Third Geneva Convention.

"The British government look to the Iraqi authorities to recognise the humanitarian needs of the families of the captured prisoners of war and to take immediate action to fulfil Iraq's obligations in this respect, in the same way as Britain's obligations are being fully met," the ambassador concludes.

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Lilley: hopes to stimulate research by smaller firms

Lilley launches £32m boost to industrial research

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A £32 MILLION scheme to stimulate more company investments in research and development was launched yesterday by the trade and industry department amid concern that key areas of industry are failing to spend enough.

Over recent years the government has put an increasing emphasis on industrially funded rather than public sector-funded work on developments that are close to fruition. Peter Lilley, the trade and industry minister, indicated yesterday that the policy had been less successful than the government had hoped among small to medium-sized firms.

"This country spends via government higher proportions of its gross domestic product than Japan [on research and development] but industry spends less," he said. Studies had shown that over a third of significant innovation had come from companies with up to 500 employees.

"It is clear that some firms, particularly the bigger firms, have an established tradition in R and D but it seems there is less evidence of this among smaller firms... so we are seeking to stimulate in areas of weakness," Mr Lilley said.

He hoped that the new scheme would act as a catalyst and give smaller firms a taste for investing in science and technology research. Under the £32 million scheme, called Support for Products Under Research (Spur) companies with up to 500 employees will receive a third of their costs up to a maximum grant of £150,000 to develop advances in technology.

Mr Lilley said that he had also been holding "brainstorming" sessions with scientists, technologists, foreign businessmen, and overseas academics, on how "to make better use of our enormous scientific expertise, not just in higher education but at government research councils". He said that two further schemes would be announced in the spring that would pay for experts from such centres as research councils, universities and polytechnics to help smaller firms experiencing technical difficulties in manufacturing and product development.

Trade and industry officials said that the department was spending between £300 and £370 million on science and technology under schemes such as Link, Smart and Launch-Aid. The figure is likely expected to rise next year by the rate of inflation or just above it.

The latest figures disclose that the department plans to spend £96.1 million during 1991-2 on Britain's national and European space programmes, a rise of £7.3 million or 8.2 per cent. Funding on industrial innovation is expected to rise to £114.5 million, an increase of £4.9 million, or more than 4 per cent.

Department officials said that its spending ranged from areas such as food to aircraft electronics and included technical assistance, direct research funding for small and medium-sized companies, and collaborative research programmes between firms and universities. That fact was often ignored by critics of the government's science and technology spending levels, the officials said.

● A way of mass-producing and testing 20,000 tiny lasers on a semiconductor chip has been developed by scientists.

The technique, claimed to be reliable, faster and half the cost of conventional methods, could lead to cheaper gadgets including CD players, laser printers and electronic home information services.

The development, called "full wafer technology", has been made by scientists at IBM's Zurich research laboratory in Switzerland using a standard chip-making process. Up to now, commercial manufacturing of semiconductor lasers has been a time-consuming and costly task.

Science and technology, page 14

British justice not a casualty of war, judge tells detainees

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH justice had not become the first casualty of combat, the Master of the Rolls, Lord Donaldson of Lymington, yesterday assured Iraqi and Palestinian detainees facing deportation as security risks. They should have greater faith in representations to the much-criticised Home Office advisory panel, he said.

Lord Donaldson and two other judges were giving reasons for refusing an appeal by Abbas Cheblak, a noted Palestinian commentator and supporter of entente with Israel, for a writ of habeas corpus freeing him from custody and a judicial review.

Last week Lord Donaldson and Lords Justices Beldam and Nolan held that the home secretary's decision to deport Mr Cheblak could not be challenged in the courts. Matters of national security were involved and it was for the advisory panel, known as "the three wise men", to investigate the decision. Yesterday Lord Donaldson said that there was no doubt that Mr Cheblak's record, as put before the court, "makes the home secretary's decision surprising". But it was a record which, in some theoretical circumstances, could look very different and "those who are able most effectively to undermine national security are those who least appear to constitute any risk to it".

Lord Donaldson said he was not implying that Mr Cheblak was other than "the innocent victim of circumstances" or that, on the other hand, the home secretary's decision was wrong. It was simply that there was no evidence that the decision was irrational. It would probably be a unique case if there was.

"If there is a lesson to be drawn from these proceedings it is that detainees should try to have greater faith in the desire of the special panel to safeguard their liberty to the maximum possible extent consistent with the risk to national security and should not first rush off to the courts, which are, at best, a second line of defence in special circumstances."

It was important that the public should be in no doubt that the existence of hostilities "has no effect whatsover upon the administration of justice in this country. To assert, as has been asserted outside court in the context of this particular case, that 'British justice must now figure among the casualties of the Gulf war' is simply untrue," the judge said.

"Whatever criticisms may be levelled at British justice, they could just as forcefully have been made before the outbreak of hostilities as after, because there has been no change whatsoever." To some extent, the needs of national security "must displace civil liberties", albeit to the least possible extent. But it was not irrelevant to remember that "the maintenance of national security underpins and is the foundation of all our civil liberties".

The advisory panel was the appropriate forum for Mr Cheblak's appeal, Lord Donaldson said, and he had no doubt that it would be susceptible to judicial review if, for example, it could be shown to have acted outside its terms of reference.

Mr Cheblak, a researcher for the Arab League, who lives with his wife, Farihan, a son aged 10 and daughter aged six, in Kilburn, northwest London, is among 59 Iraqi and Palestinian men and women detained under threat of expulsion from Britain.

Mr Cheblak went before the Home Office panel, headed by Lord Justice Lloyd, last Friday. He has yet to hear from the Home Office on his future and may yet decide to go to the House of Lords. His solicitor is to discuss the implications of the ruling with him.

Law Report, page 32

High winds breaking up Gulf oil slicks

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE three oil slicks in the Gulf are being dispersed more swiftly than expected, the war cabinet was told yesterday. High winds are breaking up the slicks and the flow of oil into the Gulf has slowed appreciably, ministers were told.

Information on the pollution is being collected by allied pilots as they fly over the region. "It is still a very serious problem but it is more manageable than it was," a senior source said. One desalination plant has been closed and another is open but protected by booms and looking safe.

The war cabinet, which met for an hour under John Major's chairmanship, was told that the air bombardment of Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard and its supply lines was to be stepped up. Whitehall sources emphasised that the government was in no hurry to launch a land war and denounced any reported difference of opinion between the United States and Britain over the timing of the assault.

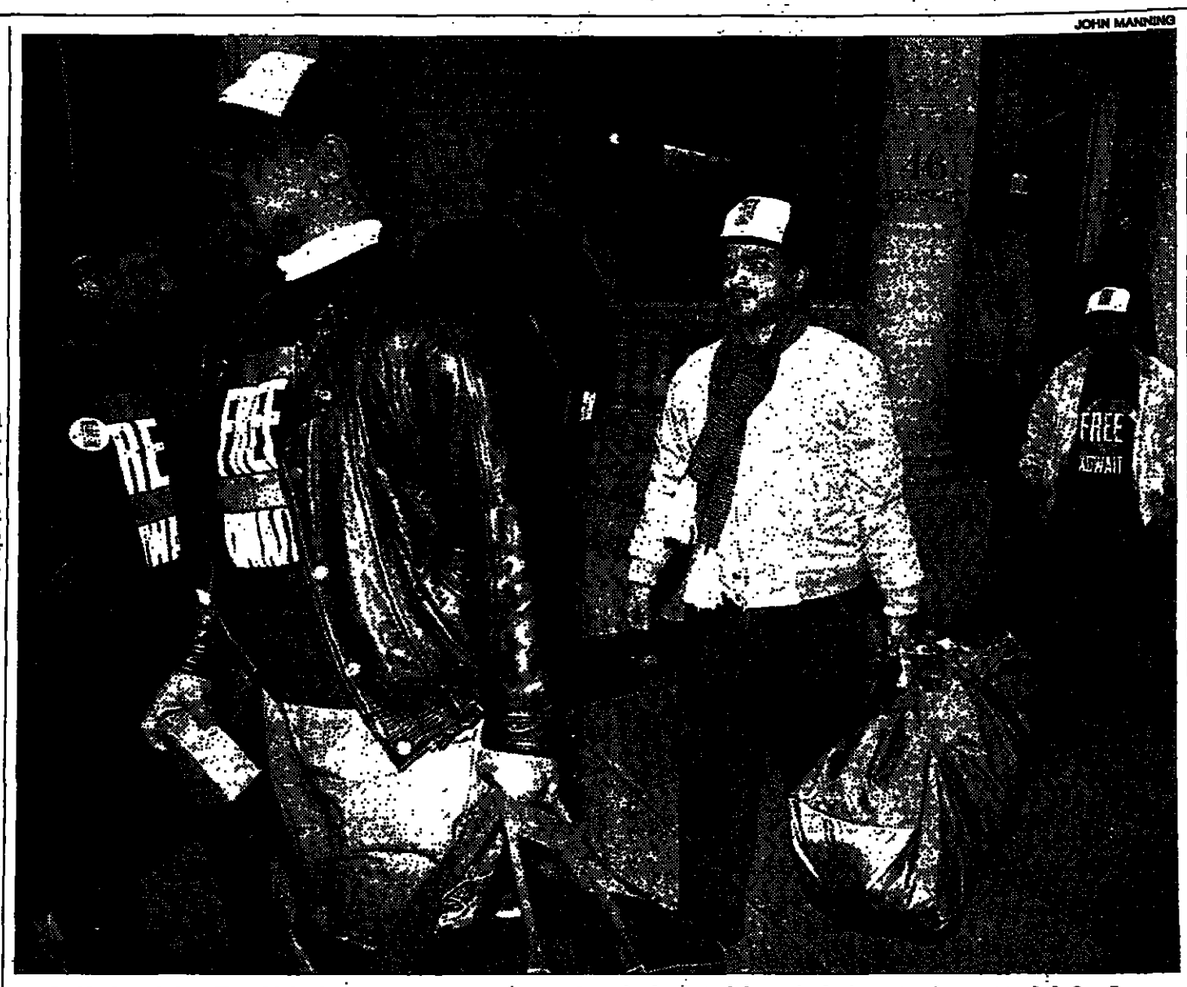
Ministers were told that a further "noticeable" number of Iraqi combat aircraft had flown to Iran. Sources said they were the type of aircraft that might be used to support a ground attack. The number grounded in Iran is higher than the 110 mentioned on Tuesday night. The government continues to believe that the aircraft are being husbanded in Iran until the end of the war, and do not expect them to fly out before then.

The "softening up" of the Republican Guard would be intensified before the land battle gets under way. Whitehall sources emphasised that there must be patience and that there was no rush to go in before the air bombardment had had its effect.

Cornelio Sommaruga, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, had talks yesterday with Tom King, the defence secretary, and will meet Mr Major and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, today. The prime minister will ask Mr Sommaruga for details of the Red Cross's abortive efforts to persuade the Iraqis to let them have access to allied prisoners of war.

Mr Major will visit Germany on Monday to hold talks with Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and will then visit two British bases, where he will meet the wives of army and RAF personnel serving the Gulf.

JOHN MANNING



Inside knowledge: Kuwaiti businessmen and students who volunteered to be guides and interpreters for the British Army in the Gulf on their way to a briefing yesterday before flying out to Saudi Arabia today. The 40 men gathered at the Kuwaiti embassy in London before being taken to an army base for basic training and a briefing about their role. They expect to be working with British troops interviewing Iraqi prisoners of war and acting as guides once the allied forces move across the border into Kuwait. Ghassan al Khaled, aged 40, who worked in the import and export trade before Iraq invaded his country, said: "I am very proud to be able to help my country. We don't know what to expect when we get out there but we are prepared to do anything to free Kuwait." All the men said they had relatives still in Kuwait.

Rabbi loses court fight against dismissal

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A RABBI sacked for alleged sexual misconduct with two women from his Jewish community lost his attempt in the High Court yesterday to win his job back.

In the first case of its kind, Rabbi Ivan Wachmann challenged the Chief Rabbi's decision that he was morally and religiously unfit to remain in office. In a reserved judgment after a hearing on January 25, however, Mr Justice Simon Brown ruled that the court had no jurisdiction to intervene. He said that the court "would never be prepared to rule on questions of Jewish law".

Mr Wachmann, aged 55, of Prestwich, Manchester, said last night that there had been a smear campaign against him and added: "Because I know I am innocent, I will fight until my dying day for justice."

He denies any sexual misconduct and says that he was unfairly dismissed last August after complaints by two women who attended his evening lectures. He plans to take the case to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Law Report, page 32

Black PC wins £1,000 damages

A black London policeman was awarded £1,000 in damages yesterday because Scotland Yard discriminated against him when he complained about racial abuse from colleagues. Police Constable William Halliday was given the award in recognition of "injury to his feelings" by an industrial tribunal at Ashford, Kent.

Last year the tribunal dismissed PC Halliday's allegations that his inspector encouraged and condoned a campaign of abuse at Orpington police station, in south-east London. At the same time, the tribunal criticised the way in which the Metropolitan police dealt with complaints, and ruled that the force discriminated against the officer by transferring him when he complained.

The force is now changing its complaints system.

Bomb couple jailed

Rosaleen McCorley, aged 34, and James Donnelly, aged 23, of Belfast, were each jailed for 22 years yesterday for planting a bomb beneath an RUC reservist's car. It is thought to be the longest specified sentence imposed on a woman for a terrorist offence in Northern Ireland. Hugh Rooney, also of Belfast, whose car was used in the murder attempt, was given a six-year sentence, suspended for four years. The hearing was at Belfast Crown Court.

Irish post jobs go

The Irish Post Office last night announced the loss of 1,500 jobs and up to 550 mostly rural sub-post offices. The measures are aimed at heading off expected record losses of almost Ir£15 million. Most of the job losses, affecting more than 10 per cent of the Irish postal workforce, will be voluntary and come about because of the sub-post office closures. Communal mailboxes will be introduced, from which residents collect their own mail.

Grants restored

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, agreed yesterday to restore grants to architecture students in the final years of their course. His decision came two days ahead of a High Court action by the Royal Institute of British Architects aimed at forcing him to do so. The grants were withdrawn by Mr Clarke's predecessor, John MacGregor, on the ground that they constituted a second degree.

Drink problem

Sheffield is among Britain's worst cities for drunkenness after a 13 per cent increase last year in such offences, according to a report by Richard Wells, chief constable of South Yorkshire. Many of the incidents related to illegal "blues parties" or "shebeens", where drugs and stolen goods were also rife. With 2,067 people charged with drunkenness offences last year, the city has the fifth worst alcohol problem in Britain, the report says.

Funding plan for Thatcher cyclotron project dropped

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS have scrapped plans to give £6 million towards a controversial cancer treatment personally backed by Mrs Thatcher, it emerged yesterday.

The former prime minister had earmarked the money to help to provide a £10.5 million cyclotron machine, which delivers neutron therapy for head and neck cancers, at St Thomas's hospital, London. Her decision, made after lobbying by Richard Packard, her eye surgeon, who is a member of the Cyclotron Trust, was opposed by the committee that co-ordinates cancer research in Britain.

The committee, led by Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, former president of the Royal College of Physicians, said that the money could be better spent on existing treatment than on unproven therapy, particularly as a cyclotron was already operating at Clatterbridge hospital in Wirral.

Cyclotrons deliver a high-energy beam of neutrons to treat eye tumours and head and neck cancers. Those opposed to the treatment point to devastating side-effects that neutron therapy can have. Those have included irreversible tissue damage causing large ulcers, and perforations requiring extensive surgery.

Yesterday, the health department confirmed that it had pulled out of the scheme at St Thomas's, but denied that this was due to the change of prime minister. A spokesman said: "We have studied all the available medical evidence and we believe that neutrons and protons can provide appropriate treatment for a limited range of cancers, and the machine at the Clatterbridge has the capacity to deal with all UK present needs in respect of research and service. We have a system at Clatterbridge ready to go. It is sensible for that to be utilised instead of waiting four years for new facilities [at St Thomas's]."



Sir Raymond: his committee opposed cyclotron scheme

Trials of the effectiveness of cyclotron treatment continue at Clatterbridge. However, last February, researchers stopped recruiting for a trial for patients with pelvic cancers, after deciding that neutron therapy showed no advantage over conventional radiation therapy for such patients.

Dr Doug Errington, consultant in radiotherapy at the Clatterbridge, said that there were no signs that the treatment was doing more harm than good.

Minister seeks end to rift with doctors

By JILL SHERMAN
SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM Waldegrave, the health secretary, last night called for further bridge building between the government and the medical profession and announced extra concessions on GPs' contracts. Speaking to the general medical services committee of the British Medical Association and the Royal College of General Practitioners in London, Mr Waldegrave said he wanted to restore mutual confidence "after some necessary and legitimate arguments".

Distancing himself once again from the combative approach of his predecessor, Kenneth Clarke, he said: "I don't mind argument, lobbying, tension even, if that means we are engaged in real discussion about how to go forward. It is the sullenness on both sides I want to get away from. We cannot behave like children who are sulking at each other."

Mr Waldegrave announced the setting up of a working group to look at ways of reducing the paperwork generated by the new contract. In addition, he said he had agreed to extend the eligibility for health promotion clinic payments to include sessions for fewer than ten patients, to help GPs in rural practices. He also announced that £1.5 million would be available for a number of small projects to develop medical audit in GPs' surgeries.

☐ The health service could save £37 million by reorganising its hospital sterile services, the Audit Commission says in a report today. The commission also suggests that a substantial investment is needed to improve sterile departments, which provide equipment and dressings.

The report says that the cost of the £210 million service could be significantly reduced if more of the products were made or packaged commercially. Further savings of about £20 million nationally could be made by reducing the 25 per cent of stock found to be surplus. The money saved could be invested in upgrading 250 sterile departments, at an average cost of £100,000, the report says.

Value for Money in NHS Sterile Services (Stationery Office; £5)

Heart-lung surgery could be doubled

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE number of heart-lung transplants in Britain could be doubled, the surgeon who performed the hundredth such operation at Papworth hospital, Cambridgeshire, said yesterday.

John Wallwork, consultant cardiothoracic surgeon at Papworth, said that about one in four patients died while awaiting the operation, but many of the difficulties surrounding donor organ shortages could be overcome. He led the team that gave a new heart and lungs to a man aged 32 in a four-hour operation on Tuesday.

The patient, Andrew Burton, of Little Wratting, Suffolk, was suffering from cystic fibrosis, an inherited and incurable disorder that causes chronic lung infections. Heart-lung transplants have been one of the biggest advances in treating the disease.

Thirty-two of the 100 Papworth patients who have undergone the heart-lung operation since it was first carried out there in 1984 have been teenagers or young adults with cystic fibrosis. As with most such cases, Mr Burton's heart was healthy and was transplanted simultaneously into another patient in what is known as a "domino" operation. His condition was said to be stable yesterday.

For patients with incurable lung disease, it is often easier to graft both lungs and heart than lungs alone. Sixty-five of the 100 Papworth patients are still alive, including Brenda Barber, aged 42, of south London, who in 1984 was the first to have the operation. Fifty-two are alive five years after surgery.

Mr Wallwork said that the hospital had funding to carry out 120 heart-lung transplants this year but expected to do only about 80 because of a shortage of organs. "We could do twice the present number if there were better arrangements to identify suitable donors and retrieve organs from them," he said.

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Company offers drug free to cancer patient

By OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A CANCER patient denied a new drug because of its cost was yesterday offered it free by the manufacturers.

Maureen Kendrick, who has kidney cancer, returned for tests yesterday to the Christie hospital, Manchester, where she had been receiving treatment.

Eurocetus UK, the company that distributes the drug in Britain, said that it was providing Mrs Kendrick with a free supply of the drug on compassionate grounds. "We cannot afford to do this on a limitless basis, but Mrs Kendrick could benefit and we felt we ought to try to help," Dr John Kilborn, managing director of Eurocetus, said. The offer was made in response to a request to the company from Nick Thatcher, a consultant at the hospital who was treating Mrs Kendrick, aged 52, of Leek, in Staffordshire.

Earlier this week, Mr Thatcher complained that the hospital had refused to provide the funding necessary to allow Mrs Kendrick to be given the drug, which costs about £2,500 a patient. The hospital's pharmaceutical budget is overspent by £300,000.

The drug has not been licensed for general use in Britain but was provided free to the Christie hospital by Eurocetus as part of clinical trials that ran for three years and ended last December.

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, has supported the hospital's decision not to fund the drug. He said on Tuesday that the drug, interleukin-2, had been denied a product licence because of doubts about its safety and efficacy.

The drug, which was developed in America, has also been refused a licence by the United States authorities but has been approved for use in all European Community countries apart from the UK.

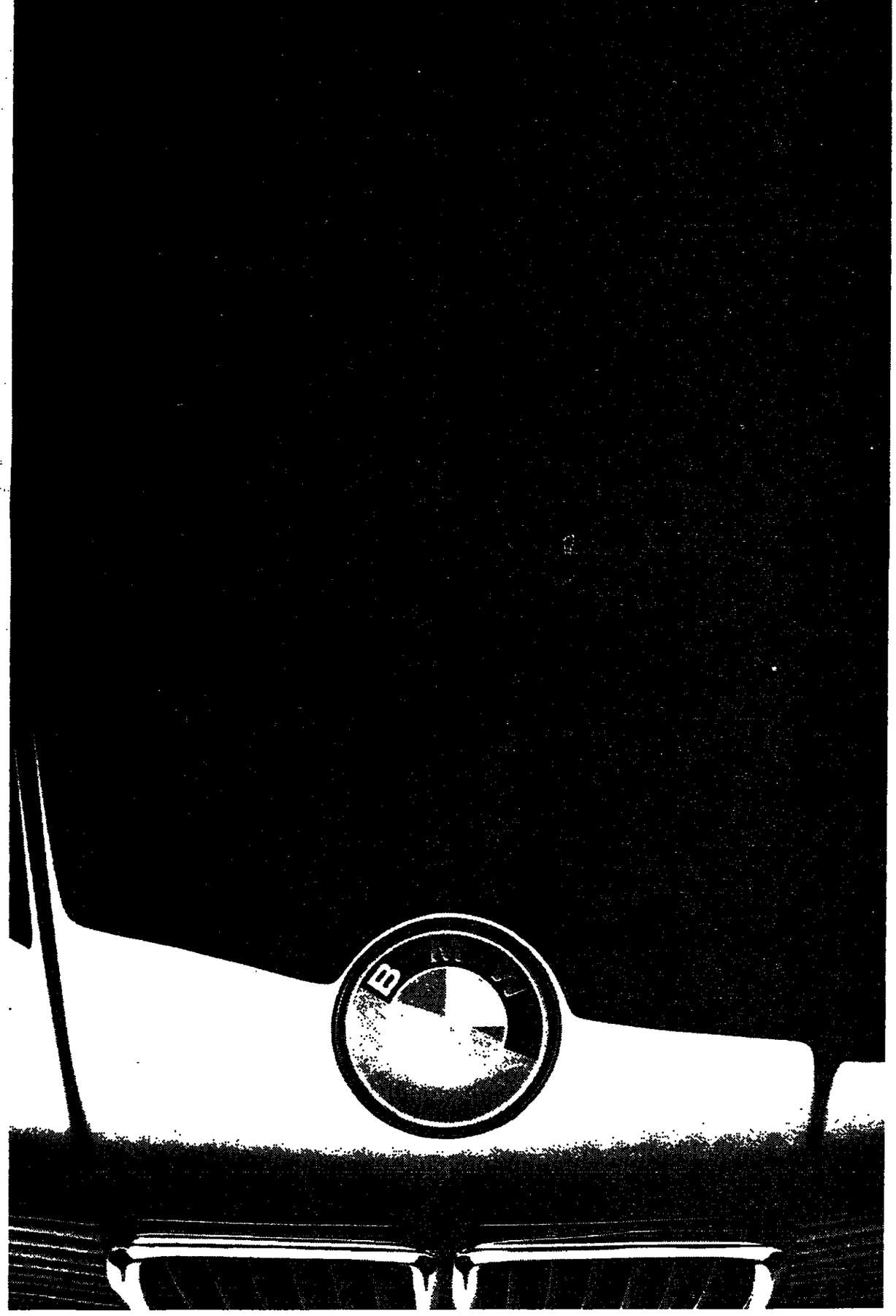
Mrs Kendrick is to undergo tests to determine whether the drug is suitable for her in her present condition. "I have been given my last chance and I am thrilled to bits," she said yesterday.

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WCRS

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Which? calls banks to account for cash machine mistakes

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE Consumers' Association criticises hole-in-the-wall cash dispensers today in a report that accuses the banks and building societies of being too ready to believe the machine ahead of the human when it comes to discrepancies in their service.

The association's magazine *Which?* singles out for special odium what it calls "phantom" withdrawals, when the account holder claims they did not make a withdrawal debited against their account. "Banks tend to say the customer is mistaken, because they assume that only the customer and the bank's computer know the card's personal identification number (PIN). Since the banks own, operate and profit from the dispensers, we think it should be up to them to prove that everything is working perfectly when the withdrawal took place. None of the card contracts we looked at states that the bank will do this," the magazine says.

A survey of 594 *Which?* readers who over a fortnight made more than 2,000 visits to dispensers showed that 35 per cent lost their card in the machine for no apparent reason, 6 per cent were given the wrong amount on at least one occasion, while 5 per cent received nothing even though their accounts were debited and sometimes the machine issued a receipt. On the other hand, 1 per cent had received cash without their account being debited.

The operators say that the 14,000 machines nationally provide a foolproof service with 800 million transactions a year. Errors are caused not by computer malfunction but by customer or bank staff mistakes and mechanical failure. Most phantom withdrawals occurred within a few miles of the card-holder's home, which tends to indicate use by a third party connected with the holder. A computer fault would be more random in its selection of sites, the banks say.

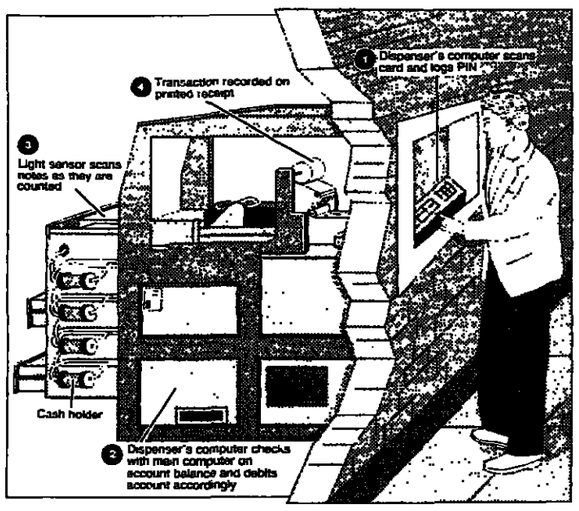
Complaints about Automated Teller Machines, as the banks call them, form the biggest single category investigated by the banking ombudsman. Last year his department dealt with 482 but in the great majority of them the bank's side of the arguement was upheld. "In no case was the computer found to be at fault," the ombudsman's office said. "It was either a mechanical fault in the machine, which can invariably be traced through the records of the ATM, or a misunderstanding by the customer. Occasionally fraud by a third party was involved."

ATMs have come a long way from the first cash dispensers introduced more than 20 years ago. A mini-computer scans the card, reads account details off its magnetic strip and compares the PIN with that tapped in by the customer. The cash request is then checked by land line against the bank's main computer; if funds are available the machine is sanctioned to pay out.

Which? suggests there should be more sophisticated security to beat potential fraud; the banks agree and are looking at new techniques, including finger-printing, handwriting and retina scans. The Banking Information Service, however, says that as security becomes more complicated, margin for error and the costs increase.

☐ Emergency evacuation of the newest cross-Channel ferry, Sealink Fantasia, would take almost three-quarters of an hour even in perfect conditions and without panic, *Which?* says. Standards set by the International Maritime Organisation call for complete evacuation by liferaft within 30 minutes but operators have no obligation to demonstrate they can meet the timescale.

Leading article, page 11



TONY WHITE



Winston chilled: snow covers the war leader's statue at Westerham, Kent, near Chartwell, as winds from Siberia came to the South

Freezing South gets taste of Siberia

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

IT'S official: the icy weather giving Britain its coldest snap for four years is coming directly from Siberia. For once, the explanation of the man-in-the-street for brass monkey weather has the support of professional meteorologists.

The forecasters expect the cold spell to last several days more, spreading gradually north and west and distributing the snow more widely. Temperatures will stay low, perhaps falling to minus 10C (14F) at night and hovering around freezing point during the day. The pattern of weather is similar to that which produced Britain's last serious spell of cold weather in 1987, when heavy snow falls and drifting cut off villages in southeast England for several days.

The flow of air is dominated by a high-pressure region centred over Scandinavia, which is pulling air across the whole of Europe from Siberia. There, temperatures at this time of year fall to minus 30C (-22F). With nothing to warm the air, it arrives in western Europe almost as cold as it left Siberia.

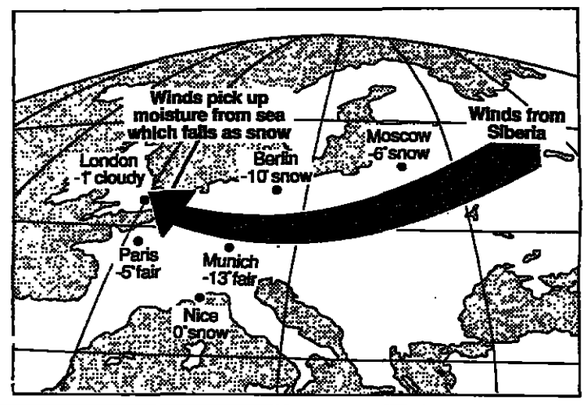
Winds gusting at 30mph are carrying the cold air across the North Sea, where it does warm up slightly. Oceans are a far greater source of heat than land masses; in this case, the North Sea also adds to the airflow the water vapour that then falls as snow over Britain.

So long as a high-pressure area remains over Scandinavia and a low centres on the Alps, no change can be expected. Forecasters at the Meteorological Office could yesterday see no break in the pattern, and expect fresh or strong easterly winds to continue, with heavier snow showers over eastern and southern England.

The indications are that, at the weekend, the winds will move north towards Scotland. The heaviest falls are still expected to be in the East and the South, and fresh or strong east winds may bring drifting.

In the middle of January 1987 the temperature in southern England did not rise above freezing for ten days, and on one day the temperature in London did not exceed minus 6.7C (20F).

The four coldest winters this century have been 1963, 1947, 1940 and 1979. Of those, 1963 was the coldest in most places, but 1947 was the snowiest, with fallen snow lingering well into March. The two most recent winters were among the warmest on record.



Factory to create 400 textile jobs

Four hundred textile industry jobs are to be created in Nottinghamshire with the building of a £50 million factory near Mansfield by the Japanese firm Toray, it was announced yesterday.

Toray, the world's sixth largest textile and clothing company, which already has a factory at Bulwell, Nottingham, said that it had chosen to expand in the county because of the positive attitude there.

Half a million square feet of factory space will be built on 47 acres at Newlands Road, Forest Town, with production starting early in 1993. The area will be the firm's main European base.

Compensation due

Carl Gannon, aged 22, of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, who was crippled during a swimming match when he dived into the shallow end from starting blocks and hit his head is entitled to compensation, the High Court ruled yesterday. The sum, to be paid by Nottinghamshire county council and the Amateur Swimming Association, has yet to be agreed.

Footballer banned

The Liverpool footballer Jimmy Carter was yesterday banned from driving for a year and fined £350 after being found to be nearly twice the drink-drive limit when stopped in south London on January 4.

Fire scare

Twenty-five babies in incubators, some on life-support machines, were evacuated from the special care baby unit at the Royal Cornwall hospital, Truro when fire broke out near the ward. No one was injured.

ICI fined £2,000

ICI was yesterday fined £2,000 for allowing the toxic chemical phenol to leak into the river Tees from its complex at Billingham, Cleveland, after workmen accidentally left open a valve.

Bear necessities

Traffic police at East Grinstead, West Sussex, have started carrying teddy bears to help to console children involved in accidents. If successful, the idea, copied from Sweden, will be extended.

Bath death

A girl aged two died yesterday after being found face down in the bath by her mother at their home in Alton, Hampshire. No names have yet been released.

Garbo treasure

A letter from Greta Garbo to the photographer Cecil Beaton, signed with a G, sold for £950 at auction in Nottingham yesterday. Dr Crippen's autograph fetched £110.

Wildlife thrives

A nature trail is being created on the site of the Sellafield nuclear plant in Cumbria after a survey found that it was an unexpected sanctuary for wildlife.

Top chef

Trefor Jones, aged 33, chef at the Celtic Manor hotel, Newport, Gwent, was yesterday named Welsh chef of the year.

Signs of recovery in housing market

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE depressed housing market is showing signs of recovery, the Halifax building society said yesterday in its latest house price survey.

Although prices fell by 1.1 per cent in January, the largest monthly drop in the present downturn, the Halifax said that prices normally fell in January and that the seasonally adjusted figure showed a rise of 0.9 per cent.

The Halifax admitted that the market remained depressed but said that the underlying trend was positive. "If bank base rates fall to 12 per cent or below before the summer, house prices nationally could well be rising by up to 5 per cent by the end of the year." Overall, house prices were 0.1 per cent higher than a year ago.

The Halifax figures correspond closely with those published last week by Nationwide building society, which reported a 0.3 per cent increase in January after small falls in November and December, a trend that indicated "perhaps the first sign of a pick-up in the market".

A survey by GA Property Services yesterday showed that UK prices fell by an average of 8.7 per cent in the year to last autumn, but Bob North, the group's strategy and development director, took an optimistic view. "People are recognising the realism of a declining market. Holding out for unrealistic asking prices does nothing to encourage activity in the market."

He said that a cut in interest rates was needed to enhance confidence in the market and to halt the decline in prices, but there were already signs of growing activity as people recognised that now was a good time to buy.

The largest drop in prices between autumn 1989 and last year was in greater London, where they fell by 13.8 per cent, followed by the South-West, with 13.4 per cent, and the South-East at 12.1 per cent. The North-West, however, saw an increase of 4.5 per cent.

Ruling cheers defenders of historic Bath

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE Court of Appeal yesterday quashed a decision by Nicholas Ridley, the former environment secretary, to permit a four-storey development on open land near Georgian terraces in Bath, and set a precedent that may affect future decisions relating to historic towns and villages.

The judges ruled that the minister's decision to permit 20 two-bedroom flats on the site once occupied by Cavendish Lodge, Lansdown, was flawed because proper weight had not been given to a requirement of the 1971 Town and Country Planning Act that special attention be paid to preserving or enhancing the character of conservation areas.

The court allowed an appeal by the Bath Society against a High Court ruling upholding the minister's decision. Michael Heseltine, the present environment secretary, was refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords, and his department was ordered to pay costs for both court hearings.

Lord Justice Glidewell, sitting with Lord Justice Stocker and Sir Denys Buckley, said that the requirement to pay "special attention" to a conservation area's character should be the first consideration for those making planning decisions. Mr Ridley had allowed an appeal by Hammercrest Developments against Bath city council's refusal of consent for the flats.

In the High Court, last year, Mr Justice Hutchison upheld the minister's argument that although there was no reference to enhancement in the letter giving the inspector's decision, the inspector had given the matter due consideration. Yesterday, Lord Justice Glidewell disagreed. "I cannot read into the inspector's report that he did approach the matter as I have suggested it should be approached," he said.

The Bath Society's appeal was presented by its vice-chairman, Major Anthony Crombie, assisted by its chairman, Lord Raglan. Major Crombie argued that the flats scheme would destroy the harmony between 18th and 19th-century architecture and surrounding landscape. After the judgment, he said: "This is an important victory for those interested in preserving the character of this country's historic towns."

Applying unsuccessfully for leave to appeal to the Lords, John Howell, for the minister, said that the guidelines laid down by the court, which also applied to listed buildings, were "incapable of application". He claimed that the court was usurping the decision maker's role in deciding what importance to give the question of enhancement.

Giving judgment, Lord Justice Glidewell said that if a decision maker decided that a proposed development would neither preserve nor enhance the area, it was "almost inevitable" that the scheme would have some detrimental effect. In those circumstances, development should be allowed only if the decision maker concluded that it carried some overriding benefit. There was no suggestion in the inspector's report that the proposed development at the Cavendish Lodge site would enhance the conservation area. The inference to be drawn was that it would not preserve the area's character.

Lord Justice Stocker, agreeing, said that it should be manifest from an inspector's report that close consideration had been given to the enhancement issue.

Sir Denys Buckley said he agreed "not without some regret" because the inspector was recommending what appeared a reasonable solution.

☐ A project to create 60 new communities on the sites of former psychiatric hospitals is the overall winner of a competition, Tomorrow's New Communities, organised by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Town and Country Planning Association (Charles Knevitt writes).

An example of the scheme was designed for Calybury, near Woodford Bridge, Essex, by John Burrell, of the architects' practice Burrell Foley Fischer, and involves incorporating listed buildings and others suitable for new uses in the development.

Entries are on show at the Mall Galleries, The Mall, London, today (10am-4pm) and on Friday and Saturday (10am-5pm).

☐ A £140 million development plan for 240 acres of North West Water land at Kingswater Park, Audenshaw, Manchester, is to be considered at a public enquiry (Ronald Faux writes). Tameside council has approved the scheme, including a business park and housing, but it has been called in by Mr Heseltine, the environment secretary, after opposition from neighbouring councils.



Major Anthony Crombie, left, vice-chairman of the Bath Society, and Lord Raglan, chairman, after their court victory

Hazardous goods to be banned from tunnel

By MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

EUROTUNNEL is planning to prohibit the carriage of virtually all toxic and hazardous goods when the Channel tunnel opens in 1993. Concern over passenger safety, reinforced by the need to prevent accidents and to keep the tunnel operating and earning revenue, has forced Eurotunnel to ban most dangerous goods, including petroleum, hazardous chemicals, gases under pressure, nuclear waste and most combustible and corrosive materials.

The exceptions will be certain categories of mildly dangerous goods, such as fertilizers, permanganate of soda and aerosol dispensers, which Eurotunnel will accept only if correctly packaged. Experiments to establish what kinds of packaging will be required are still in progress.

The Inter-Governmental Commission, the Anglo-French body set up to monitor Channel tunnel safety, has endorsed Eurotunnel's "restrictive approach", the company said.

Alain Bertrand, the Eurotunnel official responsible for developing the policy on dangerous goods, said that its adoption followed examination of regulations governing the carriage of dangerous goods through Alpine tunnels. Although the mountain tunnels had an excellent safety record, Eurotunnel had not felt that their procedures were adequate for the Channel tunnel, M Bertrand said. The spillage of an apparently harmless substance, such as salt, for example, could react with the damp atmosphere, cause corrosion, and disrupt operations. "That is why we need more stringent safety procedures," he added.

The Freight Transport Association, which represents the interests of British road and rail hauliers, has expressed concerns that Eurotunnel's restrictions are excessive, and could impair the ability of British industry to compete in continental markets.

M Bertrand conceded that the restrictions "may make it totally uneconomic for companies to ship certain types of permissible dangerous goods". He insisted, however, that "commercial pressures cannot be allowed to undermine the operational safety of the tunnel".

Consignments of rail and road freight will be subject to rigorous inspections at the tunnel terminals at Folkestone and Calais, and all permissible dangerous goods will have to be clearly labelled and declared in advance of transit.

M Bertrand accepted that it would be impossible to prevent all violations of the dangerous goods policy, particularly as far as heavy goods vehicles were concerned. "A parcels van carrying hundreds of packages may well contain something on the prohibited list. But nothing else will get through," he said.

Glass beads clue to cataclysmic end to dinosaurs

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE clearest evidence yet that the dinosaurs were extinguished by a cataclysmic event 65 million years ago has come from the study of tiny fragments of glass in Haiti.

The glass beads appear to be the result of the impact of a meteorite on the Earth, which threw a huge volume of vaporised material high into the atmosphere. Some of the material solidified into spherical drops of glass that fell to Earth again to be preserved in geological strata formed contemporaneously with the dinosaurs' sudden disappearance.

A team led by Haraldur Sigurdsson, of the University of Rhode Island, has found that the beads contain no gas, water or solid inclusions, which means that they must have been formed by an impact rather than volcanic action. Glass formed by volcanic eruptions always contains bubbles of gas.

Despite growing evidence that an impact killed the dinosaurs, some scientists continue to argue that their extinction might have been caused by violent volcanic activity. When the discovery of the glass beads was discussed at a recent scientific meeting, however, supporters of the volcanic theory could find no answer.

The dinosaurs, a group of reptiles ranging in size from a domestic hen to a double-decker bus, flourished for 140 million years. They then disappeared abruptly from the fossil record, providing a source of endless speculation about what it was that caused such a sudden extinction.

In this week's issue of *Nature*, Sigurdsson and six colleagues say that the analysis of the glass beads suggests that the impact took place on a region of continental shelf, and that the glass was formed when rocks on the seabed were melted by the intense heat produced. The type of rock at two possible impact sites — the Manson Crater in Iowa, and the Chicxulub crater in Mexico — is consistent with the composition of the glass found at Beloc in Haiti. In an accompanying article, Jan Smit, of the Free university in Amsterdam, argues that the Mexican crater, in northern Yucatan, is the most likely.

There are still many possible explanations of how the impact killed the dinosaurs. The original simple idea was that the rubbish thrown up by the impact darkened the skies and caused green plants to die, depriving the creatures of their food. Other possibilities include the igniting of huge global fires, or even the production of large amounts of nitrogen oxides, which would have formed acid rain.

☐ Attempts to cut global warming by reducing the burning of fossil fuels could backfire, a specialist from the Climatic Research Unit at East Anglia university said in *Nature*.

The initial effect of such changes might be to increase warming rather than to reduce it, and the warming effect might go on for as long as 30 years before the climate began to cool. That is because of the opposing effects of carbon and sulphur in coal and oil, according to Tom Wigley.

When burned, carbon forms carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that tends to make the climate warmer. Sulphur is converted into sulphur dioxide, then sulphate particles which form an aerosol encouraging the formation of clouds, which tend to keep the atmosphere cool, counteracting the effect of the carbon.

Major victory transformed Tory image, poll shows

By Robin Oakley, political editor

JOHN Major's election to replace Margaret Thatcher as Conservative leader has transformed the party's image. The latest Mori poll for Times Newspapers shows a sharp difference in the number of people who believe that the Tories are too dominated by their leader.

In September, 37 per cent of those questioned believed that the party was too dominated by its leader. In January, that figure was down to 11 per cent, a change of 46 per cent and one percentage point less than the 12 per cent who apply that description to Labour.

Mr Major's arrival, which has seen the biggest surge in popularity for a party leader since Churchill succeeded Chamberlain, has had some other beneficial effects for the Tories, as the accompanying chart shows. Compared with the September findings, 11 per cent more believe that the party has a good team of leaders, 8 per cent more believe that the Conservatives understand the problems facing Britain and 8 per cent more believe that it has sensible policies. Seven per cent more say that the Tories are professional in their approach.

Further, 10 per cent fewer believe that the Tory party is extreme, halving the proportion who hold that opinion, and 9 per cent fewer believe that it is out of touch with ordinary people.

But more than twice as many still see Labour as "looking after the interests of people like us" than those who apply that label to the Conservatives (25 per cent to 11 per cent) and nearly four times as many regard the Conservatives as "out of touch with ordinary people" (46 per cent, to 12 per cent for Labour). Nearly three times as many (36 per cent) see Labour as "concerned about the people in real need in Britain", with only 13 per cent saying that of the Conservatives.

Labour's problems come in different areas. Forty per cent say that Labour will do anything to win votes, compared with 33 per cent who say that of the Conservatives, and Labour is seen as divided by more than twice as many people as the Conservatives (34 per cent to 16 per cent).

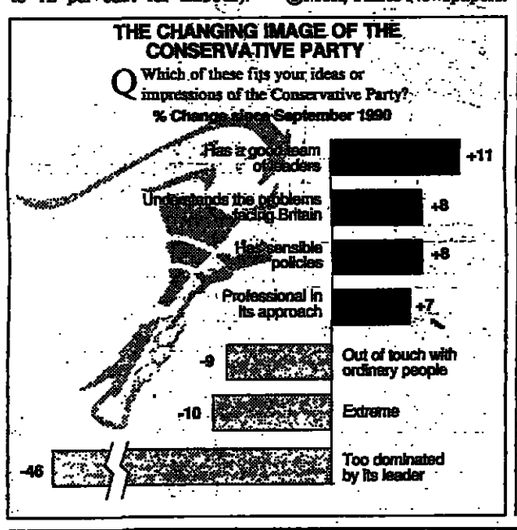
Nearly three times as many people see the Conservatives as professional in their approach, at 36 per cent to 11 per cent for Labour. The Tories have the edge too on "having sensible policies", with 24 per cent attracted by their policies compared with only 16 per cent for Labour.

In what could become a crucial factor in an election campaign, just 12 per cent say that Labour has a good team of leaders while 32 per cent say that of the Conservatives. Twice as many people believe that the Tories keep their promises as those who say that Labour do, although at 12 per cent to 6 per cent that shows a considerable degree of cynicism about the main parties.

The Liberal Democrats score better than both the main parties on "represents all classes", at 21 per cent, compared with 19 per cent for Labour and 12 per cent for the Conservatives.

Mori interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,954 adults aged 18 and over at 149 constituency sampling points throughout Great Britain, face to face from January 18 to 21. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population.

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Hogg and Patten for the manifesto

By Philip Webster, chief political correspondent

CHRIS Patten, the Conservative chairman, and Sarah Hogg, head of the Downing Street policy unit, are expected to be asked by John Major to write the party's election manifesto.

That was disclosed yesterday as colleagues of Mr Patten vigorously denied any suggestions of tension between the policy arms of Downing Street and Conservative Central Office.

Mr Patten, who wrote the European elections manifesto for Margaret Thatcher in 1989, wrote recently of the need for the Tories to build a genuine independent think tank out of the Conservative research department and the Centre for Policy Studies.

That led to Westminster gossip that Mr Patten was set on building up a policy machine at Smith Square that would clash with the Downing Street unit.

However, it has emerged that Mr Patten regards any move to make big changes to the research department as a long-term matter, to be implemented after a general election. His immediate priorities are strengthening the party's organisation and communications in readiness for the general election.

The Conservative machine is being geared up in case Mr Major decides to go for an election in June. Among Tory strategists the most favoured time for the election appears to be next year, although they accept that the case for June this year could strengthen.

The internal manifesto groups are to deliver their reports to Mr Patten soon. The main themes of the Tory appeal at the election are expected to be sound money, social responsibility, the creation of an "opportunity Britain" and improvements in the public services.

The defeat of inflation is the Thatcherite objective most enthusiastically adopted by Mr Major's government and will be a central plank of the manifesto. One senior minister involved in manifesto planning said: "We all know that it began to fall apart for us, and particularly for Margaret Thatcher, when it appeared that we had lost control of inflation. That lesson has been learnt."

Mr Patten and Mr Major have set out their visions for vastly improved public services. The party chairman said in a speech this week: "I think that a proper target for 2010 or before is to raise standards in the public sector so high that no one will seriously believe that the private sector should be an automatic choice for those who have the resources to opt for it".



Blair: During a recession investment in skills is needed

Government told to make better use of training

By John Winder and Peter Mulligan

BETTER training should be used to help to tackle unemployment, Sir Norman Fowler, the former Conservative employment secretary, said in the Commons last night. He also urged consistency in government training policy.

The government should seek the advice of the training and enterprise councils (Tecs) and task forces it had created about how to get contributions to training from employers who did not make one.

Speaking during an Opposition-led debate, he said that the basic structure of training should remain the same. It was important to have national standards and vital to have local delivery.

Having created the Tecs and attracted some outstanding managers, the government should devolve to them. There must be no lingering bureaucracy or parts of the employment department getting in the way of the TECs.

"Unemployment is increasing and better training is one way to tackle that. I do not address those words to the employment secretary (Michael Howard) but the shadowy unseen guest at all our debates, the chief secretary to the Treasury (David Mellor)."

Tony Blair, shadow employment secretary, opening the debate, said that government cuts of £300 million in its training budgets were savage. Training and retraining was even more important at a time of recession in a year when 25,000 companies were expected to go to the wall.

He said that when the employment training scheme was introduced, Sir Norman Fowler had told MPs that training was what the long-term unemployed required.

"What has changed? Did the minister decide training was no longer necessary and then make a cut? Or did he agree to a cut and then cast around for an excuse?"

Mr Blair added: "It is precisely at a time of recession that investment in skills must be maintained and increased." Why should industry be expected to heed the government's urging to keep up training, when the government set such an example?

He warned the government about the continental emphasis on training.

Defending the decision to cut the budget, Michael Howard, employment secretary, accused Labour of using the unemployed for political purposes; the government believed that they should be treated as individuals.

"It has become clear", he added, "that for many unemployed people a lack of skill is not the prime obstacle to finding a job. For many the main difficulty is a lack of morale or lack of motivation."

Owen wants local NHS

By Nicholas Wood, political correspondent

PROPOSALS aimed at ending what he called the grotesque over-centralisation of the National Health Service were put forward by Dr David Owen last night.

The former leader of the SDP said that that could be achieved at a stroke by converting district health authorities into health service trusts and so ensuring a clear distinction between purchasers and providers of health services.

Dr Owen told a meeting in Leeds that national decision-making tolerated waiting lists and a queuing mentality. It was too often remote from consumer needs.

Trust status for district health authorities, which was compatible with present legislation but had been ruled out by Kenneth Clarke, the former health secretary, would bring other benefits in addition to a service better geared to consumer needs.

"Conditions of work and pay would be freed from national controls and slowly a fully decentralised pay-bargaining procedure might develop. If all district health authorities were to become trusts, one of the most unattractive features of the health service, namely its grotesque over-centralisation, would be ended at a stroke."

Dr Owen also criticised ministers for refusing to extend patients' rights because they were fearful of the implications for costs. People facing a lengthy wait for treatment at their local hospital should have an absolute right to be referred elsewhere by their GP.

Letters, page 11

Cold aid debate refused

An attempt to force a Commons debate on the need for cold weather payments to be made to elderly people with limited means during the present cold spell failed when the Speaker told David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall North, that the matter did not meet the requirements governing emergency debates.

Mr Winnick said that many people did not have nearly enough to keep their homes adequately heated and, even when the conditions triggering the special payments had been met, the payment was only £5 a week.

Rosyth base

Allan Stewart, a junior Scottish office minister, sought to reassure MPs that no decision had been taken to close the Royal Navy base at Rosyth in Fife. He said at questions that the government recognised the implications any such closure would have for the area's economy.

New pps

Gwilym Jones (Cardiff N, C) is to be parliamentary private secretary to Roger Freeman, public transport minister.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Home Office; prime minister. Disability Living Allowance and Disability Working Allowance bill, remaining stages. Lords (3): Statutory Sick Pay bill, Commons amendments.

Unionists meet Brooke as hopes fade on Ulster talks

By Richard Ford, political correspondent

THE two Unionist leaders meet Peter Brooke today with hopes fading that he will be able to find a formula to allow the start of talks on the future administration of Northern Ireland.

Unionist politicans believe that his twelve-month quest to develop a formula that would allow negotiations on an alternative to the Anglo-Irish agreement is running into the sands and that he is in danger of losing credibility.

Mr Brooke has given the clearest indication that he is preparing to announce the failure of his attempt to start a process that would include talks on devolved government in the province, discussions on a North-South relationship and also on links between London and Dublin.

He said that the time may be approaching to "put up the shutters" on his present initiative, with several difficulties unresolved and no important progress being made towards bridging the gaps that exist between the various parties involved.

Yesterday, Charles Haughey, the Irish Republic's prime minister, denied that his government was blocking progress towards political dialogue in the North. He said: "We cannot contemplate failure because the result would be catastrophic".

The key obstacles that remain to be overcome are the timing of the Irish Republic's involvement in the process and the insistence by the Unionist parties that they should attend talks with the Dublin government as part of the UK delegation.

The Unionist leaders, James Molyneaux and the Rev Ian Paisley, want the talks between the constitutional parties in Northern Ireland to make substantial progress on an internal administration before the start of the second round on North-South relations which would involve the Dublin government. However, the government of the republic and the Social Democratic and Labour party want a timetable set because of fears that Unionists will use delaying tactics in the first set of talks in order to postpone the second stage that is intended to involve Dublin.

A proposal that Mr Brooke should decide when enough progress had been made in the internal talks to allow the start of North-South discussions is viewed with suspicion in Dublin. The republic's government wants broad agreement that this should happen after a few weeks and it fears that the Northern Ireland secretary could come under pressure from the Unionists to delay the start of the second stage of negotiations.

Ministers to keep atom firm share

By Our Chief Political Correspondent

THE government has surprised Labour MPs by disclosing that it intends to retain an important control over the company being set up to employ staff when the management of Aldermaston and other nuclear weapons manufacturing sites is taken over by the private sector.

In a move hailed as a victory by the Opposition, it has also tabled amendments to the Atomic Weapons Establishment bill designed to tighten environmental safeguards at the four sites. The government has reversed itsplans to grant the new company immunity from various pieces of environmental legislation.

During committee proceedings on the Bill, the Labour party has been pressing the government to keep a continuing majority interest in the operations of Aldermaston and the three other atomic weapons establishments. It had argued that the government needed control to prevent commercial and profit interests from overriding the company's concern for safety and security. Concerns were also voiced about its falling into foreign or undesirable hands.

Under the government's plans, a company will be formed solely to employ atomic weapons establishment staff who will be transferred from the civil service. The contracting company being brought in to take over the running of the establishments will own the employing firm.

However, Kenneth Carlisle, a defence procurement minister, has told the committee that the government will keep a special share in the employing company to ensure that its control cannot be changed without consent.



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T1

KGB's openness stops short of answering awkward questions

Senior officers in the KGB are increasingly willing to make public statements critical of the Moscow regime. Anatol Lieven in Vilnius finds the reason to be a complex amalgam of politics and self-interest

THE Soviet Union is becoming a surreal place: professors of musicology become presidents of republics, and KGB officers resemble professors of musicology – or at least do their best to do so.

Lieutenant-Colonel Algirdas Ruksenas of the Lithuanian KGB is a striking example, reminding one in the interview room at KGB headquarters in Vilnius of a Cambridge professor – except that his suit is rather better cut. But he was not my concern. I was at the headquarters to interview the lieutenant-colonel's superior, Colonel Edmundas Baltinas, a deputy director of the Lithuanian KGB. I hoped to persuade him to amplify his statement of two weeks ago in which he bitterly criticised the Soviet military attack on and occupation of the Lithuanian television station on January 13 in which 14 Lithuanians were killed. This proved rather difficult. Colonel Baltinas has a way of blushing and squirming in his seat when asked awkward questions. It is his way of avoiding them.

According to the colonel, "I and all the other officers of the Lithuanian KGB view the events of the 13th very negatively. The use of force to solve political questions is bad in itself and is also pointless. The occupation of these buildings is also illogical – sooner or later they will have to be returned to their proper owners."

Asked what was likely to happen next, Colonel Baltinas declined to make predictions "because these decisions are being taken at a different level from the KGB". He added, however, that "I think the forces responsible for the attack on the TV station have learned such a lesson from what happened that they probably won't try such a move again". He said the reason for their failure had been the unexpected Western reaction, lack of support from Moscow and, most importantly, the rallying of the Lithuanian people behind the government of Vytautas Landsbergis. "There used to be much Lithuanian criticism of Landsbergis, but since these events this has died down," he said. He said the local KGB had had nothing to do with the attack on the television station. "We warned them (the Soviet military) against the use of violence, but they didn't listen to us."

Echoing what could be a moderate Soviet line, Colonel Baltinas said that independence was desirable but that its achievment should be a phased process.

He is not the first senior KGB officer to make known his criticism of military actions. Last month, for instance, a KGB chief in Georgia, Major General Otar Khatiashvili, launched a blistering press attack on those responsible for the massacre of demonstrators in Tbilisi on April 9, 1989. The most likely explanation of such statements is that KGB officers, being both natives of their own republics and highly intelligent, are securing their future ability to go on living at home, rather than being chased out to Moscow. They may even be able to secure future careers in independent republics.

The governments of Lithuania and Georgia have both made clear that they view the setting up of their own security services as a priority, and for this they will need professional officers.

The Soviet KGB may increasingly be forced to tolerate a measure of openness from below for fear that its whole delicate apparatus in several republics may otherwise collapse. The resignation of 20 KGB officers, if true, would certainly be a sign of this. Intelligence work requires intelligent native speakers, not brutish Russian soldiers or the handful of has-beens making up the remnants of the Soviet Communist party in Lithuania.

Alternatively, such statements could be expressions of the power struggle going on between the different branches of the Soviet government. They could also reflect the traditional contempt of intelligent services for the flat-footed military approach to repression.

Perhaps most likely is the possibility that Colonel Baltinas's statements reflect a mixture of all these factors. But what the exact mixture is, and where the colonel will be found in the event of full-scale military repression in Lithuania is a question which, despite his apparent openness, he is still not answering.

Baker pleads with Moscow to resume the path of reform

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, appealed to Moscow yesterday to resume the path of reform "for the sake of history and for the sake of the world".

Appearing before the House foreign affairs committee, Mr Baker delivered one of the gloomiest assessments of Soviet affairs in years, pointing to the return to economic centralisation, suppression of freedom in the media, resurgence of the Soviet army and KGB, departure of key reformists such as Eduard Shevardnadze from President Gorbachev's inner circle and, above all, Moscow's "tragic" repression in the Baltic republics.

"The old ways are not the right ways. Perestroika cannot succeed at gunpoint," he declared. Such unsettling actions were "completely inconsistent with the course of peaceful change, democratic principles, the rule of law and real economic reform".

Referring specifically to the Baltic area, he said there was "simply no justification" for using force against peaceful, democratically elected governments and that "our hearts go out to the courageous people of the Baltic states".

He disclosed that the administration had stepped up links with Baltic leaders and was completing plans for sending a "large part" of the humanitarian aid, which the US has promised Moscow, direct to those three republics.

Confirming that Moscow was seeking, in American eyes, to violate the treaty to cut conventional forces in Europe, Mr Baker said he did not believe the agreement should be sent to the Senate for ratification under the present circumstances, and said that the nearly completed treaty to reduce superpower strategic nuclear arsenals was also jeopardised.

Mr Baker recognised President Gorbachev's argument that restoration of discipline was necessary if his reform programme was ultimately to succeed, but also saw a danger of intensified repression.

● **MOSCOW:** The Soviet Union's top constitutional review body, the Constitutional Compliance Committee, was reported yesterday to have begun consideration of the orders which authorised joint army and police patrols on city streets (Mary Dejevsky writes). The move was challenged by the Russian Federation parliament, which argued that the army could fulfil law-and-order functions only after the formal declaration of a state of emergency.

While consideration of the patrols may be a mere formality, Sergei Alekseyev, the chairman of the committee, has a reputation for fearless integrity. He overturned a decree by President Gorbachev last autumn which gave the central leadership the right to prevent demonstrations inside the Moscow ring road.

He also expressed public reservations about the legitimacy of Soviet army intervention in Lithuania last month when troops of the Vilnius garrison were supposedly called out by the intervention of a self-appointed committee of national salvation.

Walesa in warning on Soviet survival

From REUTER IN ROME

PRESIDENT Walesa of Poland said yesterday that if Moscow did not loosen its grip on its republics "the future of the Soviet Union will be marked by a string of funerals". Expressing confidence that Lithuania and Ukraine would one day be independent, he said the only way the Soviet Union could save itself from "crumbling into dust" was to dissolve and re-emerge as a freely formed federation.

"We are entering a new era in international relations," he told a news conference at the end of his first visit abroad as Poland's president in response to a question about Warsaw's relations with Moscow and republics such as Lithuania.

"If the Soviet Union wants to continue to be a (world) power it should dissolve itself as soon as possible and then form a new federation," he said. Such a federation must "be based on new principles – principles of freedom, democracy and pluralism. Then, anyone who wants to can join this federation.

"Otherwise the future of the Soviet Union will be marked by a string of funerals, clashes and nothing positive. The Soviet Union will become weaker and weaker until it crumbles into dust," he said.

● **Referendum rejected:** Lennart Meri, foreign minister of Estonia, said yesterday that the all-union referendum on March 17 was "a bogus referendum which will not solve the Baltic crisis", (Alan McGregor writes).

Mr Meri, in Geneva to lobby the UN Human Rights Commission, said: "If 75 million vote against Baltic independence, even with the Baltic peoples voting 100 per cent for restoration of their independence, they will have no chance under the all-union referendum law."



In the public eye: A man walking out of a lavatory in Tokyo's Taito district, which is promoting a series of new clean and eye-catching public conveniences

Millionaire may be tried over Gorbachev insult

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet Union's chief law officer announced yesterday that he was seeking leave to prosecute a certain Artem Tarasov for "insulting the honour and dignity of the Soviet president". If the case comes to court, Moscow will witness one of the most glittering trials for years, for Mr Tarasov is not only an elected deputy of the Russian federation parliament, he is also the country's only known rouble millionaire – and proud of both achievements.

In physique and determination Mr Tarasov resembles President Gorbachev and, like the Soviet leader, his luck has begun to run out. Making money with impunity in a nominally socialist state has its liabilities and Mr Tarasov is feeling the political draught.

The net began to close around him ten days ago, when the premises of two subsidiaries of his parent company Istok were raided by police and KGB officers. At first, the investigations were linked with Mr Gorbachev's recent decree on "stepping up the fight against economic sabotage", which permitted raids on suspect enterprises.

Mr Tarasov objected in the Russian parliament to the treatment of his employees who, he said, had been taken from their flats at gunpoint and forced to take police and the KGB to their offices. It subsequently emerged, however, that the raids were linked, at least officially, with investigations into an extortion racket in Lithuania.

People were said to have been taken hostage and released only in return for large sums of money. The trail was alleged to lead to Arisa, an airport services company based at Moscow's international airport, Sheremetevo, and from there to Istok. The airport is recognised to be a den of iniquity. So far, the charges of economic and criminal malpractice against Mr Tarasov himself have been no more than insinuations.

Shortly before the first raids on Arisa became public, however, Mr Tarasov was responsible for what with hindsight will be judged either as a deliberate leak of information or a gross political blunder. He suggested in an interview that Mr Gorbachev might be ready to sell the four disputed islands in the Kurile chain to Japan, for £105 billion. This was widely interpreted as suggesting that a secret deal had already been negotiated.

A flurry of outraged foreign ministry and presidential denials followed and Vitali Ignatenko, one of the president's chief aides, flew to Japan. Mr Gorbachev let it be known that he was considering suing Mr Tarasov. The businessman said he would apologise, but the chief procurator said yesterday that the state will initiate prosecution.

The Tarasov case is infinitely tangled and leaves several questions unanswered. Was his claim of a deal on the Kuriles the cause or a symptom of his troubles? Is he a victim of the cooler political climate, or was his empire always of dubious probity? Are his difficulties real, or merely a warning to others?

Bonn to speed investment in the ailing east

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

JUST four months after East and West Germany merged, the cabinet yesterday agreed on changes in the unification treaty to encourage more investment and quicker privatisation in the eastern part of the country. At the same time Kurt Biedenkopf, the Christian Democrat prime minister of Saxony, said that the five east German federal states would ask the courts for further changes in the treaty, if the government did not significantly increase financial aid to them.

Government estimates last year that private investment would pour into the east immediately after unification have proved wrong. January's unemployment figures, published yesterday, underlined the point, showing that another 115,000 jobs disappeared in eastern Germany last month, and that, with 757,200 now out of work, unemployment had risen to 8.6 per cent. With a further 1,855,524 now on short-time working in the east, scarcely three-quarters of the workforce has full-time jobs, while unemployment is continuing to rise at an average rate of 11,000 a day.

Herr Biedenkopf, speaking in Dresden yesterday, said that without more generous government aid all five east German states would soon be bankrupt. He said they were seeking extra subsidies and tax concessions worth DM35 billion (£12 billion), adding that the states might take the matter before the constitutional court.

Under the terms of the German basic law, which now covers the united country, all areas must have roughly the same living standards. The five states mean to point to the huge disparity between conditions in the two parts of the country to persuade the court to order the government to increase its level of aid. Herr Biedenkopf suggests this could be financed by increasing value added tax from 14 to 16 per cent.

Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, who so far has ruled out any tax increases to finance the unification process, is still pinning his hopes on encouraging new investment. This was why his cabinet decided yesterday to amend the unification treaty to diminish risk involved in buying businesses in the east.

Until now investors have been reluctant to buy East German companies because the unification treaty promised to return all property confiscated by the communist government or to pay compensation for it. Those who used to own property were asked to lodge claims and more than a million have done so, necessitating a lengthy legal delay while the courts decide who owns what. Hard-nosed businessmen, meanwhile, have not been ready to gamble on a concern which might later be reclaimed.

The proposed treaty changes will force claimants either to allow a speculator to take over a business or start it up themselves. Compensation, where due, would be paid after the courts decide on ownership and there would be no need to wait for the lengthy legal process to grind its way through the courts.

● **Farmers hit:** The average income of German farmers will drop by 20 per cent in the current year, Ignaz Kiechle, the agriculture minister, reported to the cabinet yesterday.

Voice of Mickey Mouse is dead

From CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

JAMES MacDonald, the Scottish-born sound-effects man who for 30 years was the voice of Mickey Mouse and many other Disney characters, has died in California aged 84.

"Jimmy was probably one of the best sound-effects men in Hollywood in the early days, a real pioneer," a Walt Disney spokesman said yesterday. "He created all the effects you hear in Disney animated shorts. He was an absolute genius."

Mr MacDonald came to the United States from Dundee as an infant and trained as an engineer. He began playing percussion for a dance band on a passenger line. In 1934, between voyages, he played with a band that was used to record the background for an early Mickey Mouse cartoon. Disney, who had provided his own voice for the falsetto mouse, recruited him to his newly formed Sound Effects Department, doing vocal effects and cartoon voices.

In *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* he created gurgling waterfalls, falling rain, the calliope and yodled for the dwarfs and sneezed for Sneezy. He was the timpanist in the soundtrack from Fantasia. He took over from Disney as Mickey's voice in *Fun and Fancy Free* in 1946 and was the voice of Disney's signature characters until his retirement in 1976. After that he returned to do occasional effects, including the voice of Evinrude, the outboard dragonfly in the recent *Rescuers* cartoon. MacDonald credited his engineering background with helping him make virtually all the sound effects equipment at Disney.

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Lambada blows away marxist cobwebs in Laos

From JAMES PRINGLE IN VIENTIANE

BEFORE the stolid faces of the Laos communist hierarchy and foreign envoys, a scantily clad Laotian girl danced an uninhibited version of the lambada as a rock band blared. The occasion was a recent state reception marking the 15th anniversary of the triumph of a revolution in Laos, after similar communist victories in neighbouring Vietnam and Cambodia.

In a land where, just a year or two ago, a girl wearing jeans or a teenage boy with long hair could find themselves in a re-education camp, or at least be given a stern lecture by the police, the scene was surprising. Vientiane's foreign diplomatic community were suitably taken aback. "We have seen girls dancing at these events before," said one envoy. "But in the past they were dressed as Pathet Lao soldiers, shouting slogans and waving rifles."

Yet Kaysone Phomvihane, the prime minister and Pathet Lao communist party leader, did not bat an eyelid. At a parade the next day, as floats featuring locally-made Pepsi and beer passed party officials on a rostrum, Mr Kaysone, aged 70, called for more market reform and urged businessmen to expand free enterprise into rural areas.

Most things move as slowly in Laos as the sluggish Mekong river that undulates through the landlocked mountainous country of 4.1 million people. Somehow dancing the lambada at a state reception was symbolic of the dramatic changes in the past two years.

Although communism in Laos could not be compared to Pol Pot's rule in Cambodia, its early years, from 1975 to 1979, were harsh and stalinist. It was a time of re-education camps for up to 40,000 officials and officers of the old royal regime, farm collectivisation and nationalisation of private business. Every facet of life was controlled. But now, as the government opens to Western investment, most of the prisoners of re-education camps have been freed after a dozen or more years of hard labour and are re-entering society.

Most Laotians can now get a passport and leave, but the trend is the other way. The government is asking many of the 343,000 refugees who fled abroad in the early days of what are now admitted "mistaken policies" to return home, allowing them to reclaim former homes and land. Day passes are available to cross the Mekong to buy popular casual clothing, including once banned jeans and electronic goods, in Thailand.



Kaysone: calling for more market reforms

But it is not all sweetness and light. Diplomats say there are still up to 300 political detainees, including 33 held since 1975. Recently three former officials were arrested for calling for multi-party democracy and charged with anti-government activities. One denounced the regime as a "communist monarchy" and a "dynasty of the politburo". The government has said he will be tried under a new legal code.

The arrests point to the limitations of "new thinking". The openness is on the economic side only: there are no plans for political relaxation. This is still an authoritarian one-party state, though a new constitution should be ready before a key party congress due by mid-year.

هكذا من الأخبار

South African right presses for Afrikaner homeland

From GAVIN BELL IN CAPE TOWN

SOUTH Africa's right-wing Conservative party, enraged by the destruction of apartheid, has stepped up its calls for an independent Afrikaner homeland.

The Conservatives' implacable resistance to the reform process was summed up yesterday by Pieter Mulder, one of the party's leading figures, who cited the creation of Pakistan and Bangladesh as a historical precedent for the partition of his own country. "Why should we be treated any differently?" he said. "As Afrikaners we claim self-determination for our people."

Briefing journalists, Dr Mulder added that he could not see that Afrikaners had anything to gain from taking part in negotiations on a new constitution which they believed would result ultimately in a black dictatorship.

Dr Mulder, a professor of communication, drew extensively on history and academic theses to justify the Conservatives' argument that power-sharing in an ethnically diverse state is a recipe for disaster. He pointed to Lebanon and Cyprus and to the experience of black Africa, which has had more than 150 heads of state since 1957, only six of whom voluntarily relinquished power.

In a whirlwind review of the world's trouble spots, he said: "Try telling the Basques, the Corsicans, the Kurds, the Palestinians and the Tamils of Sri Lanka that autonomous regions and micro-states will not work. You can add to that the Afrikaners of South Africa." Power-sharing was losing power by instalments; partition was the only realistic solution in South Africa.

Referring to post-colonial "honeymoon constitutions" elsewhere in Africa, Dr Mulder said: "Safeguards for minorities which aim at frustrating black power have not worked in the past, nor can they work in the future. It is an illusion to believe that a way can be found to rule a deeply divided society in such a way that one group will not be dominated by others. When these realities finally become clear to all South Africans, we might find ourselves in a Lebanon-type situation."

Toeing his party's line against violence, Dr Mulder evaded questions about armed resistance by paramilitary groups. But, he said, "we invented guerrilla warfare against the British, and we are good at it. Also, most South African white males have received a high level of military training. These are not threats, they are facts."

In the meantime, conservative politicians are pinning their hopes on popular rejection of a post-apartheid constitution in the referendum promised by the government. With fewer than a third of white votes in the last general election in September 1989, however, their prospects of blocking the new order at the polls must be considered remote.

As a son of the late Connie Mulder, whose career as a leading National Party politician was wrecked by a corruption scandal in 1978, Dr Mulder is well schooled in the cut and thrust of politics. But the forces ranged against him appear overwhelming.

The fate of diehard Afrikaners raging against the winds of change is perhaps best summed up by Dr Zach de Beer, the leader of the liberal Democratic Party. Commenting on the Conservatives' walk-out from parliament last week, he said: "The sun is setting on the white reactionaries of our country."

De Klerk's strategy, page 10

Dissident faces long sentence

Peking — A second dissident charged with trying to overthrow China's government went on trial in Peking yesterday. Liu Gang, a pro-democracy activist who was involved in the massive demonstrations of spring 1989, faces a minimum sentence of 10 years in prison (Catherine Campson writes).

Mr Liu, aged 29, is a physics graduate from Peking University. Constitutional law lecturer Chen Xiaoping was put on trial on Tuesday on the same charge of trying to overthrow the government. The authorities are expected to charge four people with this crime. The trials of journalist Wang Juntao and economist Chen Ziming are expected to begin early next week. The sentences of the four men are expected to be announced before Chinese new year on February 15.

Back to Earth

Moscow — The Salyut 7 space station was expected to crash back to Earth early today, Tass said. The craft, abandoned four years ago, would enter the lower atmosphere between 0100 and 0830 GMT. Officials said the bulk of the craft would burn up, but pieces weighing up to two tonnes would hit the ground. *(Reuter)*

45 die in attacks

Bogotá — Left-wing Colombian rebels launched attacks, killing at least 45 people, to protest against their exclusion from a specially elected assembly as it began reforming the country's constitution. Army and police sources said 25 guerrillas, 13 soldiers and policemen and seven civilians were killed. *(Reuter)*

Visit cancelled

Katmandu — The Dalai Lama, exiled spiritual leader of Tibet, has cancelled his planned visit to Nepal this month after strong objections from the Chinese embassy and political parties in Katmandu, Radio Nepal said. His visit was at the invitation of the Buddhist Welfare Association.

Rebels arrested

Manila — Two key army rebels have been arrested by Philippine security officials. Former Major Abraham Purugganan and former Lieutenant-Colonel Victor Batac were committed coup leaders.

Cambodia puts off general election

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN BANGKOK

CAMBODIA'S Vietnamese-installed government has postponed a general election planned for this year to promote a negotiated settlement of the country's civil war, the official SPK news agency reported yesterday.

Chea Sim, second in line in the ruling communist-style party, urged the guerrillas to agree to a truce and move ahead in peace talks, the agency reported. The state radio said, if the guerrillas do not want peace, Phnom Penh will hold parliamentary elections in 1992 to conform with the constitution.

The government and the three guerrilla groups have been engaged in slow-moving talks on a United Nations plan to end the 12-year-old war. The scheme calls for the UN to disarm the factions and be extensively involved in Cambodia's interim administration before organising an election.

Chea Sim, chairman of the national assembly, spoke at the closing session on Saturday, the SPK report said. He said that the national assembly, which was formed in 1981, had already extended its mandate by five years to this year.

"In reality, we are in a position unilaterally to organise the general elections in the framework of the state of Cambodia," he said. "But to favour the national reconciliation and the efforts of the international community for a political solution to the Cambodian problem, we agreed to extend the national assembly's mandate for one more year.

"Seizing this opportunity, the national assembly calls on the other side ... to move forward to put an end to the conflict," he said.

However, Chea Sim again rejected the guerrillas' demand that the Cambodian government and army should be dissolved before elections so that they cannot manipulate the vote. Phnom Penh says that is a violation of the UN charter and an invitation for attacks by the Khmer Rouge, the strongest guerrilla group.



Home at last: Pootta Prangmee, aged 75, left, and Prong Ninanong, aged 80, Thai soldiers who were stranded in Burma for nearly 50 years after fighting in the second world war, lighting candles yesterday during a welcome home ceremony at the King Mengrai monument in Muang Chiang Rai, Thailand. They crossed back into northern Thailand on Monday, according to Danai Kikoontoad, a government official (AP reports from Bangkok). The two soldiers were sent to what is now Burma's Shan state in 1941 to fight the Chinese 93rd Kuomintang Division. When the war ended, the troops were expected to make it back home on their own. A Thai official met the two men when he went to Burma last year. Mr Danai said Mr Pootta, who has a Burmese wife and five children, was formerly attached to a transport unit and earned his living in Burma by driving lorries. Mr Prong lived in poverty in Burma, Mr Danai said.

Rebels to try men who shot US crew

From AP
IN SAN SALVADOR

GUERRILLAS being held for trial by their own forces for killing two American soldiers shot down in a military helicopter said they did so because the men had mortal injuries, a human rights worker said.

One of the Americans, Lieutenant-Colonel David Pickett, was also shot just after the crash when he disobeyed an order to put his hands up, one of the guerrillas of the rebel Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front told Maria Julia Hernandez, director of the Roman Catholic church's legal aid office.

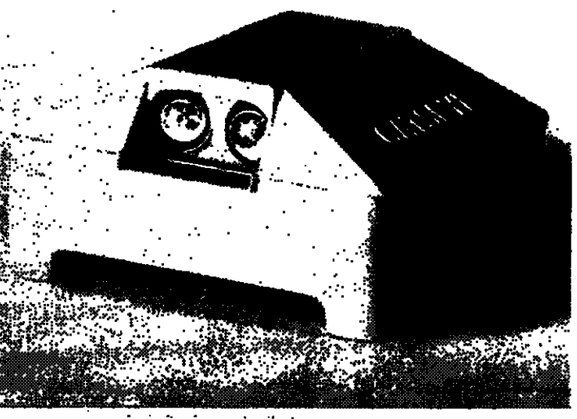
She spoke with Aparicio and Porfirio, the pseudonyms of the two accused guerrillas, in northeastern El Salvador on Sunday. The rebels say they will try the two for the killings.

Warrant Officer Daniel Scott, the helicopter pilot, was killed in the January 2 crash near Lolotique. Private Ernest Dawson had critical injuries from the crash. Since the survivors were in severe pain, Aparicio decided to kill them to end their suffering. Porfirio carried out the order.

NET EARNINGS POLAROID CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES 78 88 NET EARNINGS REFLECTING ROADSTUDS LIMITED 79 88 CALCULATED ON NOTIONAL £/10p ROYALTY PER UNIT FOR SALES OF RING PULL CANS IN U.K. '79 88

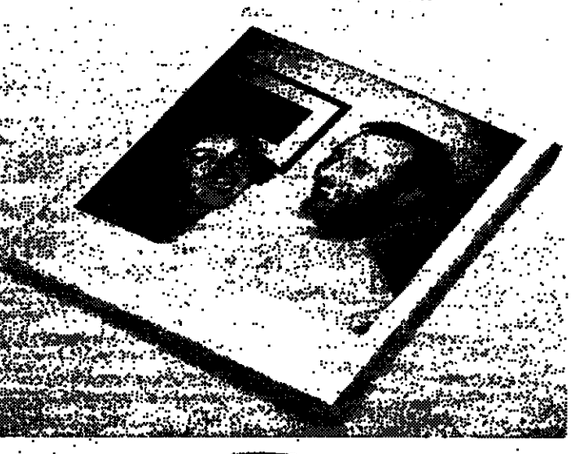
Catseys patent March '35. Financial benefit:

£2,340,776



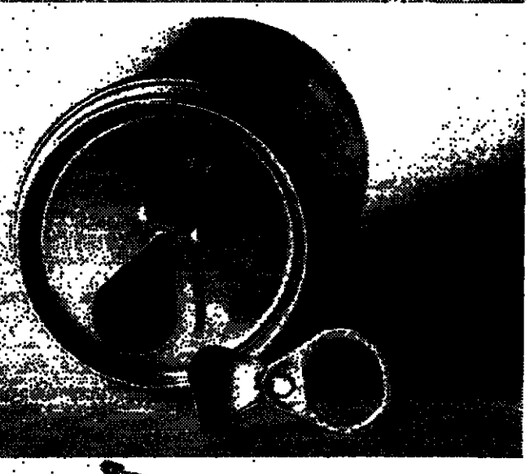
Polaroid patent June '46. Financial benefit:

$603,000,000



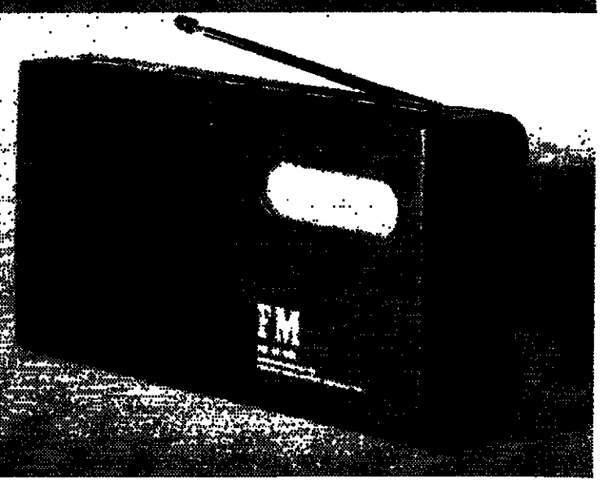
Ring-pull patent June '65. Financial benefit:

£49,000,000



No FM patent – No Financial benefit:

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AN EXECUTIVE AGENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

The new man goes to war

Rebecca Nicolson

General Schwarzkopf, the Gulf war's icon of strength and manliness, has destroyed his cartoon image as Stormin' Norman. In an interview this week, he admitted he has constant nightmares that he will give an order that sends thousands of soldiers to their death. A real man has exposed his emotions to the scrutiny of the world: he has shown that war is not testosterone dreamland.

We expect maleness to be assertive, insertive, aggressive and inherently militaristic; femaleness to be long-term, slow, round, gentle and nice. Fathering a child involves one quick shot; mothering takes a couple of decades.

This comforting polarisation of the genders has dominated the press in the past fortnight. Most of what we have seen and read so far is either macho glorification of missiles or the female complaint: "Isn't it unfair that they shout us down when we try to explain what war really involves?"

What is particularly striking is that those actually conducting the war — Bush, Major, Schwarzkopf de la Billière — and the allied pilots and navigators interviewed after returning from their missions have all failed to show any hint of machismo. Tom King, it must be said, has from time to time wandered off in ersatz-Churchillian, but that is how he has always dealt with things. Nevertheless, Mr King's style is radically out of date. It is too manliness-conscious for a war that feels different from previous wars not only because of the high-technology but because of the modesty with which it is conducted.

Pilots admit terror, generals admit ignorance, prime ministers eschew the big war-words so readily at hand. One only need think of the possible war vocabulary of either Mrs Thatcher or Michael Heseltine to realise with gratitude what it is to have such a non-rhetorical, managerial figure in Downing Street. President Bush's own impoverished rhetoric plays exactly the same role.

This is a New Age war, a war in which the general commanding the allied forces in the Gulf spends the best part of an afternoon briefing reporters on the environmental impact of an oil spill. What did General Haig have to say about the effect of British artillery barrages on the fragile plant communities of the Flanders fields? Or Montgomery on the welfare of desert lizards? Or Westmoreland on the destruction of tropical rainforests?

So something has happened here, something which perhaps it has taken a war to reveal. Sex roles, or at least femininity and masculinity, seem to have been shuffled. The press is decades behind the people with whom it is trying, in theory, to communicate. Don't most people respond to the elasticity, carefulness and lack of bombast in Mr Major's public statements so far? And don't those statements conform closely enough to what the columnists describe as an average woman's reaction to the war? And is John Major's "manliness" in any way diminished by that?

Perhaps the press needs educating in the ways of a world that has changed around it. And perhaps the realities of a land battle will eradicate both the obsession with weapons, graphics and briefings and the over-sugared women's-page attitude which is its twin.

Apartheid's last gasp: now the hard part

Conor Cruise O'Brien sets out the likely path to universal, free elections

The legal pillars of apartheid are about to fall. The Group Areas Act, the Land Act and, most basic of all, the Population Registration Act will all be repealed this year. The death of apartheid was so often proclaimed in the past — most frequently under P.W. Botha — that it is hard to realise it now really is dying.

With the repeal of the Population Registration Act, apartheid will lose its central nervous system. Hendrik Verwoerd's grandiose experiment ends in total failure, after 40 years of cruel, bureaucratic racial pedantry. And the party that acknowledges the failure, and ends apartheid, is the party that created it: the National party.

In terms of legal structures, the end of apartheid does no more than take South Africa back to where it was before 1948. F.W. de Klerk's achievement in ending apartheid should not be underestimated, but to move from there to a non-racial democracy is a more formidable task.

Last week, I spoke to some of those close to President de Klerk. I found that they *do* want to move to a non-racial democracy — one adult, one vote — by the year 2000. But they want to move in stages. The first stage would be the enactment of a new constitution by the present three-chamber legislature (comprising separate assemblies for whites, Indians and mixed-race coloureds). The second stage would be the submission of the constitution so enacted to a referendum of all the people, without distinction of race. The third stage would be the creation under the new constitution of a racially mixed but non-elected interim government. And the fourth stage, near the end of the decade, would be elections on a non-racial basis.

Implicit in this scenario is the idea that South Africa has already had its last all-white general election. The vote of the three-chamber legislature and the new constitution, once endorsed by the people at large, would be held to obviate the need for a fresh mandate from the white electorate.

To work, this audacious strategy will require a considerable degree of acquiescence from key people outside the National party, both black and white. Leaders of the African National Congress and the rival Inkatha have to be willing to proceed on a negotiation formula on these lines. On the white side, the security forces will have to acquiesce in the euthanasia of the all-white electorate.

I was sceptical about the fulfilment of both these conditions, but my interlocutors were soberly confident as far as the ANC is concerned, and I inferred that private discussions have been more encouraging than public statements suggest. It was conceded that when the ANC leadership agrees with the white leadership on a formula, many of the present ANC followers will defect, but it was felt that ANC leaders in the transitional government could weather that storm.

The question of the security forces is more delicate. This is not an area in which direct questions can usefully be asked by an outsider, but I got the impression that my interlocutors would have been talking as they were only if senior members of the armed forces were aware of what is intended, and were not disposed to rule it out. The Afrikaner ruling class is quite small, and the distinction between its civil and military members is not rigid. Also, the idea that at some stage the all-white electorate will have to be by-passed has been around in those circles for some years now.

I recall a conversation in Cape Town in 1986 with a leading member of the Broederbond, of the *verligte* (enlightened) persuasion that now controls the National party. Speaking of the great transition, he said: "The white electorate will have to be put to sleep." The method he envisaged was martial law, followed by non-racial elections. What is now envisaged is a more elegant method of attaining the same end.

Inevitably, those who seek a transition along these lines will be accused of bad faith. Why not hold non-racial elections now? The answer seems to be that early elections and negotiations may be incompatible. Those who are prepared to negotiate are liable to be superseded, electorally, by those who demand unconditional surrender of the whites and an immediate black takeover of the economy as well as of political power. But such a takeover would involve both blacks and whites in common ruin.

I have the impression that the ANC leadership is almost as wary of early non-racial elections as is Mr de Klerk. Both contemplate a period of interim non-racial government as a preliminary to non-racial elections.

I suggested to my Afrikaner interlocutors that it might be helpful to involve the United Nations — both the Security Council and the secretary-general — in the preparation of non-racial electoral consultations, whether by way of referendum or parliamentary elections. Willingness to let the UN monitor such preparation, and eventually supervise the electoral process, would go far to satisfy international opinion that fundamental change, and not just clever cosmetics, is intended.

Although the UN has long had a bad name among white South Africans, I found my interlocutors receptive to this idea, partly because direct Security Council involvement would preclude discussion of the South African question by the General Assembly.

The European Community's decision last week to remove sanctions against South Africa once the basic laws of apartheid have been repealed — as promised by Mr de Klerk — is wise. Mr de Klerk deserves international support on his present course, which is necessarily a perilous one.

In contempt, and with reason

Bernard Levin argues that it is the arrogance of the judges, not sniping by the press, that has undermined public confidence in the judicial system

Not long ago, Lord Justice Taylor, widely canvassed as the next Lord Chief Justice, was whining in public about unfair criticism of the judiciary. Since no judge will ever admit that any criticism of the judiciary is fair, there was more than a touch of hypocr . . . —that is, tautology — in his Lordship's argument. But one of the things he said still sticks in my gullet. He said that the unfair criticism was "undermining public confidence in the judicial system".

I am well known for exaggerating the claim that the whole of the judiciary, and a good deal of the Bar, lives in a world entirely of its own, where the reality which the rest of us have to cope with is unknown. It is, I think, very significant that that charge — of unworldliness — is the only one that really enrages them; it would cause less uproar if someone claimed that our judges take bribes. But surely you would agree that it is truly terrifying — for once the word is apposite — that a most eminent jurist, who may shortly become the head of our judiciary, can demonstrate in public an ignorance so colossal and appalling as Lord Justice Taylor's claim that unfair criticism in the press (yes, of *course* that's what he put it down to) is "undermining public confidence", when it is certainly nearer 20 years than 10 since public confidence in the judicial system collapsed completely, *because of the judges*.

No, they do not take bribes; nor do they twist the evidence in order to convict a defendant whose face displeases them; nor do they prejudge the cases before them; nor do they give longer sentences to black men than to white; indeed, they don't even fall asleep on the bench, or not very often. There are people who firmly believe all these fruity charges; indeed I know there are, because many of them write to me to tell me as much. I yearn to believe that our judges are crooked, but they are honest, and only an amazingly small proportion of them are stupid.

Why, then, the withdrawal of public confidence from them — a withdrawal that runs right through our society, by no means confined to those who harbour grudges?

The cause is threefold. First, they have again and again stolen from us rights that we were given by Parliament. I have written before about the scandalous way the judges have castrated Section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, which protects journalists' sources except when "disclosure is necessary in the interests of justice or national security, or for the prevention of disorder or crime".

The absolutely unambiguous words of the statute have been turned inside out by judges; "necessary", "interests of justice", "national security" and "crime" have been reinterpreted so extravagantly that the protection of the statute has been entirely nullified, as was chillingly demonstrated by the case of William Goodwin. He wanted to investigate the financial affairs of a company, but it managed to put him in the dock and demand the source of his information. He was fined £5,000 and was lucky to escape prison, although the law which Parliament passed gave him complete immunity.

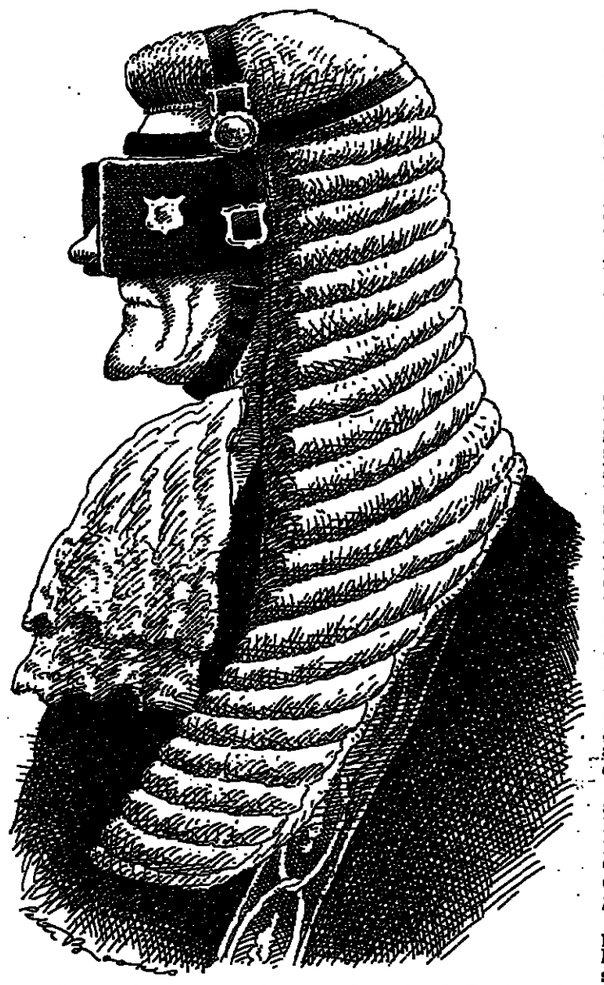
The judges' claim to have an authority higher than Parliament and the laws it makes was for centuries used with great discretion; nowadays they simply hide behind the Common Law when they want to do something the law forbids. I do not know quite when the arrogation of which I speak began, though the infamous judgment of Lord Simonds in the *Ladies Directory* case, when a law was invented to convict a man who had not broken an existing one, must have played a part. This is what he said: you can practically *hear* the self-satisfaction:

> Let it be supposed that at some future . . . date, homosexual practices . . . are no longer a crime. Would it not be an offence if, even without obscenity, such practices were publicly advocated . . ? Or must we wait until Parliament finds time to deal with such conduct? If the common law was powerless to act . . . we should no longer do her reverence. But her hand is still powerful and it is for Her Majesty's Judges to play the part . . . It matters little what label is given to the offending act — an affront to public decency, a corruption of morals, the creation of a public mischief, of the undermining of moral conduct.

The second blow to the previously widespread respect for the judiciary has come from the hideous growth in miscarriages of justice in recent years, and from the way the judges, particularly the senior ones, have lamentably failed, again and again, in their duty to see that such scandals do not take place. I repeat, I am not suggesting bias, let alone anything worse; but the mind-set of our higher judges is so encrusted with 40-year-old ideas — in particular that the word of the police is, other things being equal, always to be preferred to that of the accused — that it is a wonder anybody is ever acquitted.

If you think I am overdoing things, read the judgment of Lord Lane in the 1988 (unsuccessful) Birmingham Six appeal; I haven't enough space to quote it, but I have just looked through it, and I think it no shame to admit that I found tears in my eyes as I saw an honourable, decent, old man who has loved and served the law throughout his life, striving with all his force to do justice, and so hopelessly, inescapably, tragically out of his depth that the proceedings might have been in Martian for all the chance that he might see what lay behind the evidence and measure it correctly.

"The worst is not, while we can say 'This is the worst'." The day before yesterday, in the Court of Appeal, a visitor could have seen the third of the reasons which have helped to destroy the respect due to the judiciary, and which Lord Justice Taylor presumably still thinks is all got up by the press. For the third assault is the public's revulsion at the *amour propre* of too many of our judges.



I am not, of course, thinking of Judge Pickles with his dog-eared cuttings album or Mr Justice Michael Davies demeaning himself with his "jokes" about his motor-car; the average citizen's attitude to the judiciary is sufficiently robust to distinguish between the chaff and the wheat. But it was the wheat that was in the limelight on Tuesday, where even more serious grounds for complaint by Lord Justice Taylor could have been found. For it is the territorial claims made at the highest judicial level that constitute the third nail in the coffin of public respect, so gross in their self-importance is the judges' demands on the obedience of the rest of us.

Once again, the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad was being discussed. The case before the Appeal Court concerned a Mr Binham, who alleges that he was "fitted up" by them; naturally, I make no comment on the guilt or innocence of anyone concerned. But I can at least reveal that in the forthcoming appeal of the man who had made the complaint, the Crown Prosecution Service had given notice that it would not be contesting, or putting forward evidence against, the appeal.

That, you would think, would be that. Whatever words or jargon wrapped up the message, it was unambiguous; the CPS could not proceed because it was not safe to do so. That was what happened in the Guildford Four case; the prosecution threw their hand in, and the court very properly rubber-stamped the decision.

But never again, if Lord Justice Russell, who was sitting in the Appeal Court on the Binham case, has any say in the matter. Plainly seething with perfectly genuine indignation, he asked, somewhat rhetorically, "Do you know of anything in our constitution or our law that enables anybody to pronounce a verdict as unsafe and unsatisfactory except this court?" Warming to his work, he went on thus: "It is for this court and this court alone to take the decision; it is not for the Crown Prosecution Service, not for the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Attorney General or the Home Secretary." And if you think that although the judge demanded the right to decide the matter, in practice he would always follow a prosecution withdrawal, I must tell you that in 1975 (not 1597) in a case on appeal, the Appeal Court *and* the House of Lords forbade the prosecution to capitulate, and convicted a man against whom the evidence was that which *the prosecution* said was worthless.

We can — we should — sympathise. The higher courts have lately had a bad time; unused to serious, sustained and pointed criticism, they have tended to withdraw into the circle of wagons and wait for the Indians to go away. The Indians, however, are still galloping round the stockade, and making ever more noise. The idea that the judges are very far indeed from perfect is now not at all strange, and no wonder Lord Justice Russell blew up. But in the light of the next day's morning he should have recognised his mistake in doing so. The worst thing I know about the judges and their attitude is that I am sure he will not have done so.

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

The Savoy Hotel is angry. I do not blame the Savoy Hotel. When one is so steadily at the dispensing end of immaculate behaviour, other people's social trespasses must be especially hurtful; well-mannered umbrage was taken at an article by a tabloid journalist writing about the recession in the tourist trade.

This representative of the fourth estate booked a minimum-priced, quite-a-bargain-when-you-come-to-think-of-it double room, facing nowhere in particular, for £195 a night; told reception that she was on her honeymoon, could she have a better room, and was upgraded to a suite overlooking the Thames; she also received a bottle of champagne and a bowl of fruit, which is the way of things when you spend your wedding night at our most prestigious hostelry.

Her advice to readers was: "The more you bargain, the more you save." The Savoy, not wishing it to be generally known that in the hotel trade, as elsewhere, the more fuss you make the better the deal you obtain, has taken the narrow view and is considering an action for deception on the grounds that she said she was on her honeymoon when she was not on her honeymoon. Therefore she obtained goods and services by fraud.

It would be a fun case to take to court.

Some 40 years ago, a seaman met a girl in a bar in Liverpool, told her he was a steward on a transatlantic liner, and the girl confided to him that it was her great ambition to visit New York. No trouble, said the seaman; if you like, I will sneak you into my cabin before we leave for the States in the morning, lock the door so that no-one will stumble across you, black out the porthole for extra security, and just so long as you keep very quiet and do what you are told, you can be in America in a week.

It was agreed. In the dead of that night she was smuggled on board and hidden in the cabin. And for the next six days she stayed *in situ*, alone, while the steward worked, sharing his off-duty hours within the confines of four narrow walls between his shifts. On the seventh day, noticing that her friend had forgotten to lock the cabin door, the girl slipped out on deck for a change of scenery and found herself at Bootle Docks on board the Isle of Man steamer. She took the man to court, claiming that she had entered into an agreement: a week of her services against a transatlantic voyage; she had delivered her part of the deal and had been defrauded. The judge awarded her the price of a round trip to New York in a luxury liner.

In similar vein, were the hotel to take the journalist to court, the judge might order her to marry her "honeymoon" escort, then direct them to spend their wedding night in a run-of-the-mill £195 bedroom, sans wine, sans fruit.

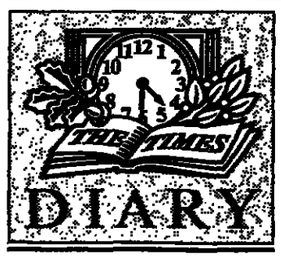
The tabloid's defence would be that it is of service to readers to know of bargains to be found during a recession; indeed, the article goes on a bit about where you can get upgrades — apparently everywhere except in Market Harborough.

What I find cheerless about the article is the contention that the more you haggle, the better you do, because the consequence of that reasoning is that if you accept what you are first offered, you are doing less well than you should.

I have been in countries where bargaining is a way of life; where you ask the price of an article or service and the seller answers it with an opening bid. It is a grubby, time-consuming, unedifying business which removes the sense of achievement that comes with an acquisition, leaving you with a nagging unease about the wisdom of your purchase.

My daughter is into upgrades; she tells the clerk at the airline ticket desk: "My father writes for *The Times*, please could I sit in business class on my economy ticket?" Now and then it works, for airlines, like good hotels, do what they can to please their customers.

Last week, on a flight to Los Angeles, she managed to sit shoulder-to-shoulder with other upgraded passengers; at the back of the plane a couple of dozen folk on cut-price, bucket-shop excursions each had a row of five seats on which to stretch out and sleep.



Change and continuity

Bernard Weatherill, Speaker of the House of Commons, is to announce his retirement shortly. The man with one of Westminster's best-known voices will stand down before the next election to enable a successor to be appointed before the new parliament is convened.

Weatherill was widely expected to announce his intention on his 70th birthday last year. But as it fell only days after Mrs Thatcher's resignation, the announcement was postponed, and friends now say it is unlikely to be made before the end of hostilities in the Gulf.

Weatherill has come under increasing pressure from his constituency association in Croydon North East to announce his decision formally so that a successor can be nominated. Informally, the battle for the succession has already started, and one of the front-runners is Weatherill's 40-year-old barrister son, also Bernard, who has failed to secure a nomination in a number of other seats. Supporters of Weatherill junior say the very name would attract many floating voters because of his father's strong personal following in a seat he has held for 26 years.

At Westminster there is already intense jockeying to succeed Weatherill as Speaker, in part because of the high profile the job now enjoys thanks to the television cameras. Labour believes it should have a turn, while many Tories see no reason not to use their large majority to elect another of their own. Either way, the first woman Speaker may be on the cards: the Opposition's favoured candidate is Betty Boothroyd, a deputy Speaker, while Dame Janet Fookes is the preferred choice of many Tories.

● *Two of the Tories' rising young stars came unstuck on their first visit to Chequers last weekend. William Hague, PPS to the chancellor, Norman Lamont, had a brush with security guards as he tried to prise open the boot of his Ford Sierra for inspection. It remained stubbornly closed, and he was told to abandon the car and walk. Equally embarrassed was Rob Hayward, who bade farewell to the Majors and then found his Jaguar would not start. He tinkered under the bonnet, until in desperation he prodded the starter motor with an umbrella, whereupon the engine burst into life.*

Saddam's friends

The Committee to Stop the Gulf War was deeply embarrassed yesterday by revelations that some of its members are openly committed to a military victory for Saddam Hussein. Set up by Tony Benn, church figures and CND, the committee wants the Iraqis to withdraw peacefully from Kuwait, and reacted angrily to the discovery that the Socialist Workers' Party, which is represented on the committee, wants the allied forces to be defeated.

"We are for the defeat of America and the victory of Iraq," wrote John Molyneux, the party's ideologue, in *Socialist Worker* before war broke out. Confirming that stand yesterday, Chris Banbury, the SWP organiser, said: "Our position has been spelt out to other committee members. We are calling for the defeat of America."

Although the SWP is insignificant in itself, its link with the stop-the-war committee could greatly embarrass Labour MPs and others who have shared the committee's platforms. "These lunatics have not told the committee their view," says Marjorie Thompson, chairman of both CND and the committee. "I'm not going to allow people like this to impede our efforts. If they come to our meeting next week we shall show them the door."



No pen pal

The theatrical partnership between Jeffrey Archer and Sir Peter Hall is proving an uneven one. Hall's company, under the patronage of Archer, has taken up residence in the Playhouse Theatre, London, where its first production, *Twelfth Night*, opens later this month.

Archer, who owns the theatre, has been telling anyone who will listen of his regard for Hall's work, beginning when he was on the arts committee of the old GLC and Hall was director of the National Theatre. "I am so excited by this partnership," Archer enthused yesterday en route to a speaking tour of Tory marginals in Lancashire. "I believe Sir Peter is our greatest living theatre director."

But while no-one denies that the two men get on well, the artistic admiration is not necessarily reciprocated. A leading critic of Tory arts policy who once considered standing as a Labour parliamentary candidate, Hall admits that he has never seen an Archer play or read any of his novels. A straw-poll of the distinguished cast found a similar ignorance of their patron's bestsellers. The only exception was Martin Jarvis — but he had been paid to read Archer, for two "talking book" cassettes.

Canvassing opinion

BBC's *Antiques Roadshow* is trying to identify the painter of an unsigned picture submitted by Edward Heath when Hugh Scully and his team of experts recently recorded a programme in Salisbury.

"It was brought in by Mr Heath's housekeeper, who queued with other members of the public," says Christopher Lewis, the producer. The painting is a 19th-century pastel of the beach at Broadstairs in Kent, Heath's birthplace, and was once owned by Sir John Betjeman. Heath admired it on a visit to the poet's home, and was astonished when, shortly after, it was delivered to him as a gift.

"I know the exact spot where the artist must have sat to paint it," says Heath. "I have always wanted to discover who it was."

The *Antiques Roadshow* team — which has valued the painting at around £15,000 — has checked every artist known to have visited Broadstairs at the relevant time but can do no better than surmise that the painting is by a Belgian. "If anyone knows better, both we and Mr Heath would be delighted to hear," says Lewis.

هكذا من الأصل

TIMES PAST — THE TIMES

SADDAM'S BOGUS APPEAL

The Syrian foreign minister's arrival in Britain yesterday, and the warming of relations between London and Damascus which it signifies, is a reminder of the moral compromises which have already been made by the West in the cause of the Gulf war. But bridges between the Arab world and the West have never been more necessary.

Arab nations are often tempted to reconcile family quarrels by uniting against a common foe. The Iraqi president did not need to utter the word *jihad*. This war has brought together the most volatile elements of a potent demonology: the presence of the American and British imperialist arch-infidels alongside Israel; the proximity of Islam's holiest shrines; contempt for the wealthy Gulf states; Saddam Hussein as a kind of Arab Robin Hood. So far, this has not dented the purpose of the Arab members of the allied coalition, but they are only too aware of the perils.

Hostility to the allied bombardment was predictable and predicted. But the fact that Saddam's appeal for a holy war came as no surprise does not make it easier to deal with. Most Muslims, whether Arab or not, are not natural sympathisers with Saddam. He is probably responsible for the deaths of more of his co-religionists than any other man alive. He is a follower of the Ba'athist ideology: that is, a militantly secular and socialist brand of pan-Arabism. Images of the Iraqi leader's head bowed in prayer are recent and, as evidence of piety, unconvincing. Unlike Saladin, with whom he likes to compare himself, he is not chivalrous. He is a bad Muslim. He has no religious authority whatever for declaring *jihad*.

Yet Saddam can mesmerise. He plays for the hearts of those Muslims whose instinct it is to recoil from the wrath now visited upon Iraq. That titanic accumulation of firepower, symbolised by the battleship Missouri on which the Japanese once signed a humiliating surrender, inevitably horrifies many Muslims who retain a degree of fraternal feeling for the plight of their Iraqi brothers. Their natural emotions make them vulnerable to the appeal to solidarity.

A great medieval Arab scholar, Ibn Khaldun, depicted the history of mankind as a cyclical process in which nomadic peoples created empires, were corrupted by success, and fell victim to more warlike conquerors. Saddam's appeal was that of the warrior who promised to sweep away an effeminate Kuwaiti civilisation. Now it is he who looks like the underdog. That image, too, he will milk for all it is worth.

There are many Muslims who see these things differently: more soberly and more rationally. Such people remember that they are also brothers of the many thousands of murdered and beggared Kuwaitis; and of the foreign workers — almost all Muslims — whom Iraqi press gangs are reported to be enlisting by force; of the Kurds, Shia Iraqis and countless others whom Saddam has persecuted. There are millions who know the West and do not regard the alliance against Saddam as a betrayal and an abomination. But in some countries, especially the Maghreb countries of North Africa, the balance is in danger of tipping against the voices of moderation.

Appreciating these feelings, the allies have rightly done everything in their power to persuade Israel to resist retaliation, so far with success. Otherwise, none of this will be allowed to affect the central thrust of the conduct of the war. Nor should it. Even without Arab opinion to consider, the allied commanders would be making every effort to kill as few civilians as is compatible with paralysing the Iraqi military. Even taking Iraqi casualty figures at their face value, fewer than one civilian has been killed for every hundred sorties.

This is not the war of annihilation which Saddam would have his potential supporters believe. It is a war of limited aims, and it is still being pursued with proportionate means. Saddam is and always has been the preacher of total war, like Goebbels after Stalingrad. He is the apostle of terror tactics; it is he who conjures with weapons of mass destruction. As President Mubarak of Egypt said recently, Saddam's plans for expansion almost certainly embraced other Gulf states.

But the reawakening of an atavistic, anti-Western current within the Islamic commonwealth will most certainly affect the character of the peace, once Iraq is defeated. If a Muslim backlash is to be avoided, preventive measures must be taken now. Winning the peace, even more than winning the war, will depend on a sensitive appreciation of Arab realities.

LONDON'S SELF-DEFEAT

Even before the first qualifying round has started, London seems to have eliminated itself from the competition to hold the millennial Olympics. The British Olympic Committee insists it must have not more than one bid per city in by tomorrow. But the two rival groups preparing plans for the capital appeared comprehensively to have tripped each other up, leaving Manchester as Britain's sole surviving contender.

Manchester's great advantage is that it exists, and London does not — not, that is, as a single corporate entity. The need to have a city-wide authority able to organise a bid for the Olympics every 40 years or so is not sufficient reason by itself to reinvent the Greater London Council. But had the GLC not been abolished, County Hall would have made an excellent place in which to knock heads together. In its absence, division rules.

The formidable offer made by Manchester for the 1996 Games was defeated, it seems, because most European votes in the International Olympic Committee went to Athens, which did not win anyway. A London bid for the 2000 Games would have been stronger even than Manchester's.

Bringing the Olympics to Britain is a highly desirable aim. The capital's advantage is that it boasts the best international communications in Europe and possibly the world. Some of the necessary sports facilities already exist in or around the capital. In August, London could absorb with little pain the influx of tens of thousands of competitors and spectators. Such small inconvenience to those in parts of west London that the Games might have produced would have been compensated for by a profit, probably measured in hundreds of millions of pounds, to the capital's and the nation's economy. Londoners will find it hard to believe that the two groups preparing bids let petty top-doggery stand in the way of such wealth, but somehow they managed it.

So far the London Council of Sport and Recreation and the umbrella body called London Olympic 2000 have been sullenly silent about the reasons for the breakdown between them. But two groups which were unable to agree even on the terms of the bid itself would hardly be likely to run well together on the long road ahead. As every sportsman knows there is a time for competitiveness and a time for team spirit, and the trick is to tell the two apart. At least the ending of London's chances for the 2000 Olympics will spare the capital nine years of internal bickering among the organisers: but there is nothing else to relieve what has proved a sorry performance.

London should not be stinting in its support for Manchester's bid now. The Central Council for Physical Recreation, which had backed the London 2000 Olympic group, should also switch its loyalties north. The government's hands-off approach towards Birmingham's bid for the 1992 Games and Manchester's for the Games after that needs to be rethought, given the governmental backing that the likely bids from Peking, Milan, Sydney, Istanbul and others can expect. In London's case, unfortunately, public beneficence to assist a bid might have been throwing good money after bad. Manchester — leaner, fitter, hungrier — deserves better.

INSERT CARD, ANXIOUSLY

Those in the habit of removing cash card from shirt pocket and placing it on top of washing machine while doing the laundry — desist. Today's report from *Which?* warns that the result could be to corrupt the magnetic field on the card. They might, of course, join the handful of people for whom the hole in the wall turns fruit machine and churns out bank notes in their tens or hundreds, briefly tempting them to say nothing before conscience prevails. More likely the hole will swallow the card, leaving the cardless punter virtually deprived of citizenship through a long weekend of dried haricots and old TV movies.

That the two great innovations of 20th-century civilisation should thus prove inimical to each other has a certain piquancy. The washing machine has done more for women's liberation than the collected works of Virago, but its timers, filters and pumps so often fail when the wash is biggest and the engineer on the highest rates of overtime. The cash card exhibits an analogous tendency. The ombudsman for the banks and the ombudsman for the building societies report that they receive more complaints about cash dispensers than anything else.

The "phantom withdrawal" where the bank statement says that you were withdrawing cash in Balham when you *know* you were in Biarritz, has become a modern icon, symbolising the love-hate relationship between people and their mechanical slaves. In most cases the phantom withdrawer turns it to be all too human. In theory, only the bank and the customer know the personal identification number, the PIN. In practice, human memory being what it is, the PIN-holder keeps a note somewhere. A friend or relative strapped for cash falls to temptation. Only occasionally does the ombudsman find mechanical malfunction. More usually, the choice is to prosecute granny and/or the kids, or to pay up and shut up.

The majority of cases does not, however, mean all cases. It has been recently alleged that malefactors have discovered a way of removing from the cash dispensers of the Clydesdale bank large sums of money which were debited to customers' accounts. The case has struck fear into all banks, which have worked on the theory that the technology is impeccable. They fear a collapse in their customers' confidence in the machines.

Inevitably in a technological age, the solution sought will be technological. There is talk of cash cards that work by recognising the retina of the customer's eye or by checking fingerprints. Whether such a mechanism would indeed thwart the ingenuity of the dedicated defrauder is more doubtful. The faultless banknote dispenser may prove as elusive a holy grail as the prison from which escape is impossible. In the meantime, everyone has to proceed on the basis that the chance of being ripped off by a cash machine is rather less than that of being ripped off by the human cashier it is gradually superseding. The occasional hole in the wallet is a small price to pay for the omni-available hole in the wall.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

The shape of UN things to come

From Brigadier P. R. Duchesne (retd)

Sir, Having served as deputy commander and chief of staff of the UN Force in Cyprus for two years, as well as in a variety of appointments in 7th Armoured Brigade, in 1st Armoured Division and in the US 101st Airborne Division (all now serving in the Gulf), I feel our great hopes for the UN after World War II were dashed by the clear lack of unity amongst the "United" Nations and, more particularly, amongst the great powers on the Security Council.

At last we have an opportunity to realise the dream of many of the architects of the UN to create an effective peacemaking and peacekeeping body. Were the new-found consensus to falter at this first hurdle in the Gulf, untold damage would be done to future hopes.

The aggression of Iraq under Saddam Hussein cannot be disputed and I have no doubt that the coalition forces will evict him from Kuwait in the next few weeks. Of crucial importance is planning for the peace. My hopes are that a reinvigorated UN, with a much strengthened military staff committee, will be encouraged by the five permanent members of the Security Council to take the lead in the peacekeeping that must follow.

Failure to act now could make disengagement from the Gulf more difficult than the present military action. The creation of a UN observer force, on its own, could simply discredit the UN in the aftermath of the present action.

Yours sincerely,
ROBIN DUCHESNE,
Lake Lodge,
Churt, Farnham, Surrey.
February 3.

From Sir John Tilney

Sir, With reference to Margaret Quass's letter (February 2) on a UN force for the Gulf, for decades I have advocated an individually-recruited multi-national United Nations force, well trained, well armed, and well paid on the lines of a mixture between the Knights Templars and the French Foreign Legion. The terms of service should be four years as a minimum, yet no one should be asked to fight against his or her own country.

This world force should be paid for with moneys provided by the United Nations, supplemented by revenues from the licensing of mining and fisheries in a UN-controlled Antarctica.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TILNEY,
3 Victoria Square, SW1.
February 3.

From Mrs René MacColl

Sir, In addition to Professor Kirkwood's suggestion (January 21) that if the Secretary-General of the United Nations moved the headquarters closer to the scene of conflict so that the world community could be closely identified with the achievement of peace, it would also seem better that UN decisions in war or peacetime should not be thought of as US decisions.

Professor Kirkwood mentions Geneva but favours Cairo. Might not Jerusalem, the centre of so many faiths, make a magnificent situation for an outpost of the UN, the international peace-keeping agency?

Yours faithfully,
M. H. MacCOLL,
17 Cloister House, Griffiths Road,
Wimbledon, SW19.
February 4.

From Mrs R. Veeder

Sir, Woodrow Wyatt asserts ("Will Israel do a deal?", January 29) that the special UN committee on Palestine and its parent body, the UN General Assembly, could not agree "on the shape of the government to follow British rule in Palestine".

In fact, the special committee, following a majority decision by its members, produced a partition plan designed to establish both a Jewish and an Arab state in that part of Palestine not already under Arab rule, i.e., western Palestine, eastern Palestine (Transjordan) being already a Arab state ruled by King Husain's grandfather.

The General Assembly, on November 29, 1947, voted by a two thirds majority to accept this plan. In order to frustrate the implementation of the will of the UN, the Arab states in the area invaded the infant Jewish state at the moment of its birth. No attempt was made by the UN to uphold its own decision.

The resulting war left in Arab hands territory that was to form a Palestinian Arab state. No attempt was made, either by the Arabs or the UN to see that this was done.

Yours sincerely,
R. VEEDER,
5 Okeover Road,
Salford, Manchester 7.
January 30.

From Mr C. D. Ellis

Sir, You report today (February 5) an American general as saying that more than 44,000 sorties had been flown since the start of the Gulf war — "one a minute".

By my calculations the Americans seem to be placing the start of the war a good ten days before the expiry of the UN deadline on January 15. Were British troops also involved in this "breach" of UN resolution 678?

Yours faithfully,
C. D. ELLIS,
18 Upper Old Park Lane,
Farnham, Surrey.
February 5.

Financial curbs on NHS trusts

From Dr Stephen Hunter

Sir, Your editorial (January 30) suggests that it is "dreadful news" that William Waldegrave, the health secretary, is to retain national agreements on pay and conditions for junior doctors. The same editorial eloquently shows why, on the contrary, this is a good idea for the government and the health service: "NHS trusts are still within the public sector because the government wishes to deny the charge that the health service is being dismantled."

Junior doctors move from hospital to hospital to get the high-quality training and experience which the public rightly demands we have on appointment to career posts. Until the age of 37 we can be employed on six-month contracts with limited continuity.

To allow NHS trusts to set their own pay rates for junior doctors would invite them to reduce our pay, not increase it, forcing us to choose between training and salary — in other words, to pay for our own training.

Doctors in training and their future patients can applaud Mr Waldegrave's recognition that they are "a national resource and not just employees of any individual unit."

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN HUNTER (Chairman,
Hospital Junior Staff Committee),
British Medical Association,
BMA House,
Tavistock Square, WC1.
January 31.

From Dr T. J. Bayley

Sir, The secretary of state for health and his departmental advisers deserve the thanks of doctors in the training grades and those providing their education for the decision that national agreements on their pay and conditions should apply in NHS trusts. The pay and conditions of these future consultants provide them with opportunities for training, in exchange for a very considerable contribution to the health service, including out-of-hours work; yet NHS trusts would not have been expected to abide by these.

The acceptance of the case made by the medical royal colleges, and by those concerned with regional organisation (including regional general managers), is not a reflection of persistence by the medical lobby, as you allege, but an appreciation of the educational system, which has been and still is being developed.

The product of postgraduate medical education is a prime resource which ensures that patients in the health service of the future are well served by hospital consultants, doctors in public health medicine and general practice principals. It is not for financial self-interest that their training has been protected, but to allow planning and management of their education to meet health-care needs.

Yours faithfully,
T. J. BAYLEY (Dean for
Postgraduate Medical Education),
University of Liverpool,
Postgraduate Office,
Faculty of Medicine,
PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX.
February 1.

From Mr Alexander P. Ross

Sir, Mr Waldegrave announced his decision that NHS trusts would be expected to abide by national agreements on pay and conditions for junior doctors not, as you report, to the Royal College of Surgeons but to a meeting of the Joint Consultants Committee composed of presidents of the medical royal colleges and representatives of the BMA. He did so because he had been persuaded by the *educational* arguments for retaining national terms and conditions for junior doctors.

Far from demonstrating the staying power of the medical lobbyists, as your leading article suggests, it demonstrates that the secretary of state is prepared to listen to reasoned argument before he reaches a decision.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER P. ROSS
(Chairman, Joint Consultants Committee),
25 Canon Street,
Winchester, Hampshire.
February 2.

DNA testing

From Professor G. Jenkins and Dr P. Lincoln

Sir, Dr Brian Sheard's comment (January 28) that 30 per cent of suspects presented for DNA testing to the Metropolitan Police Laboratory are eliminated, is very interesting. This appears to imply that nearly one out of three of suspects presented to his laboratory are, in fact, innocent. This is a considerable number and one wonders how much suspects were selected and presented for investigation.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE JENKINS (President),
PATRICK LINCOLN (Chairman
of the Executive Council,
The British Academy of
Forensic Sciences),
Department of Haematology,
The Royal London Hospital, E1.
February 1.

From Mr Grahame G. Bell

Sir, The main objections that your correspondents (January 19, 28) have raised on the subject of a DNA "fingerprinting" register are cost and individual liberty.

One reason for the increase in crime is the decreasing chance of getting caught. There are something like 3,300 rapes recorded each year in England and Wales every one of which might quickly be solved were there such a register. The totality of police time, court time and cost of imprisoning offenders is in excess of £15,000 per case. The cost of genetic fingerprinting could be spread over several years by beginning with the age groups most likely to offend. The beauty of such a system is that the cost benefits would be up front. Once in place updating procedures would cost considerably less than the benefits to be gained.

With regard to civil liberties many women and children are reluctant to venture outside their homes, especially after dark, unless accompanied. I suggest that such a register would return civil liberties to far more people than those from whom it would take them away.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAME G. BELL,
Shamrock, The Avenue,
Ascot, Berkshire.
February 2.

From Professor G. L. Rogers

Sir, There has been much discussion of the idea of setting up a register of DNA details for every adult male in the population.

If we knew how long it took to determine a DNA profile we could then multiply by the number of adults in the country and divide by the number of laboratories which can carry out such tests. It would give us some idea of how long it would take to compile.

Yours sincerely,
G. L. ROGERS,
Badgers Holt, 3 Vales Road,
Budleigh Salterton, Devon.
February 1.

Lessons on spelling

From Mrs Angela Foreman

Sir, Whilst agreeing with the general sentiments of David Lipsey's article, "Inglish as she is spelt" (January 26), I would like to correct his misconception regarding dyslexia.

Yes, it certainly can be a distressing affliction, but it is not suffered by only a few. The Dyslexia Institute's latest campaign, "One in 25", states that one in 25 people suffer from dyslexia. There are 350,000 dyslexics in our schools — an average of one in every classroom. Many of these are undiagnosed and consequently misunderstood.

Mr Lipsey also states that "parents of poor spellers have adapted the term 'dyslexic' " to mask weak spelling. As parents of dyslexic children will know, their difficulties cover a wide range and may include many aspects of speech, language, literacy, numeracy, co-ordination, uncertainty over time and direction and organisation.

Early identification and specialist teaching can help all these children to have the confidence and determination to succeed.

It is a pity *The Times* is disinclined to employ those whose letters of application contain misspellings. They may be missing out on a wealth of other talents in many dyslexic people.

Yours faithfully,
A. FOREMAN,
6 Ferney Road,
East Barnet, Hertfordshire.
January 29.

From Mrs P. A. Woolley

Sir, Non-standard spelling leads inexorably to phonetic spelling. Would its protagonists care to address themselves to problems of a correspondence between, for example, a Glaswegian and a citizen of Nashville, Tennessee?

Yours faithfully,
PENELOPE WOOLLEY,
Le Pavillon,
Sark, Channel Islands.
February 3.

Ebb or flow

From Mr Geoffrey Cuttle

Sir, Mr Gould-Hacker (January 26) can observe two existing ring mains around London, but draw little comfort from their flow patterns. The Circle Line of the Underground system shows that although flow can be observed in both directions it generally, no matter where one stands, is principally in the opposite direction to that desired.

More sadly the M25 provides evidence that more modern ring-main developments hardly flow at all.

I fear Londoners must prepare themselves for stagnant water.

Yours faithfully,

GEOFFREY CUTTLE,
Lynwood,
35 Mount Hermon Road,
Woking, Surrey.
February 4.

Women in medicine

From the Dean of the Royal College of Psychiatrists

Sir, Mr J. E. Dussek (February 2) has a point: most women do not want to be surgeons or politicians. The reasons for this make an interesting debate in themselves. However, he is not correct in asserting that we are only excluded because we choose to be.

Women's decisions to pursue particular medical specialties, or political activities, are made in a context. There are major hurdles to be faced before reaching the appointments and selections committees which he describes.

Not least of these is the steady discouragement provided by most male "mentors" creating the appearance of "men-only" jobs and therefore seeming to require exceptional determination to progress in a field such as surgery. Similar discouragement appears to pertain in the political field.

In contrast, members of my own college have, in general, been most supportive and encouraging of women and their aspirations, believing that the specialty will be enhanced if it reflects the numerical balance of the sexes.

Yours faithfully,
FIONA CALDICOTT, Dean,
The Royal College of Psychiatrists,
17 Belgrave Square, SW1.
February 4.

From Mr Charles J. Lewis

Sir, Mr Dussek may well be a whizz with thoraces, but he demonstrates a woeful ignorance of the workings of our society when he writes that opportunities in medicine and politics are already equal for the sexes.

The reason for a lack of female applicants for the higher professional posts is not that women do not want such jobs as he suggests; it is that, having devoted their childbearing years to making it possible for the thoracic surgeons (or even lawyers) of this world to fulfil their potential, they themselves are by then out of the running.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES LEWIS,
2 Paper Buildings, Temple, EC4.
February 4.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

From Miss R. J. Butterworth, FRCS

Sir, Mr Dussek is correct to assert that women are not discriminated against in applications for surgical posts. However, to infer from this that the reason for the very low number of female surgeons is that women are not interested in surgery is an over-simplification.

The career structure for junior surgeons is so arduous that no surgeon, male or female, can complete it without detriment to personal and family life. Present custom in this country allows men to leave child and home care (albeit reluctantly) to their wives, but seldom vice-versa.

Thus most women, however able and motivated towards surgery, do not pursue it as a career because the expected cost in personal terms is too high.

When reform of the structure of surgical training allows all junior surgeons to have personal as well as professional lives, Mr Dussek will see that women are not as apathetic as he supposes.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. BUTTERWORTH,
4 Southminster Road, Penylan,
Cardiff, South Glamorgan.
February 2.

The new millennium

From Mr John F. Martin

Sir, The first leader in your issue of January 1, 1900, commenced, "The New Year, the last of the Nineteenth Century, which begins to-day, is not unlikely to mark a turning point in the history of the British Empire."

This perceptive observation should be sufficient authority to convince your present readers as to where you stood then, and presumably where you stand now, on the commencement date of a century.

Yours truly,
JOHN F. MARTIN,
57 Tycehurst Hill,
Loughton, Essex.
February 4.

Sick pay challenge

From Lord Boyd-Carpenter

Sir, Your leading article (February 5), entertainingly headed "Sick as a lord", uncharacteristically ignores three main objections to the Statutory Sick Pay Bill. These are:

1. Economic: a time when there is a measure of recession in the economy is a time when it is economic folly deliberately to increase employers' costs.

2. Social: a measure which imposes part of the costs of sick pay on an employer must tend to cause some employers to discriminate against employees with actual or potential sickness tendencies.

3. Administrative: it is normal government practice when legislation affecting particular sections or interests is being considered to have consultations with them before introducing legislation. The government can thus make concessions on the proposals without exposing itself to publicity and political trouble. In this case there was no such consultation before the introduction of the bill and precious little after.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
BOYD-CARPENTER,
House of Lords.
February 5.

Pennies from heaven?

From the Bishop of Buckingham

Sir, Like Mr King (January 30) I have received neither a refund nor shares in the electricity company to which I applied. But I await the post more eagerly than he. I have been electrified so far to receive £3,900 in returned cheques and 100 shares from eight other companies, for none of which I have subscribed a penny.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON H. BURROWS,
Sheridan, Grimms Hill,
Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.
February 6.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 6: Mr Christopher Macrae was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as British High Commissioner to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Mrs Macrae was also received by Her Majesty.

Major-General Sir George Burns was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, received Lieutenant-Colonel Martin Steiger upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer, The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, and Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Stewart upon assuming the appointment.

Major-General Sir Michael Palmer, Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, was present.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President and Honorary Life Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, held a meeting of the Committee for the Environment, at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Past President, received a Certificate of Honorary Fellowship of the Institute of Sports Medicine, at Buckingham Palace.

The Duchess of York visited Royal Air Force Coltishall, Norfolk and met families of servicemen involved in the Gulf conflict.

Mrs Jonathan Mathias and Captain Alexander Baillie-Hamilton were in attendance.

The Prince Edward this morning received Senor J. Lerma (President of the Valencian Regional Government) at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Chairman of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, this evening chaired a meeting of the Group at Buckingham Palace.

The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, visited Cockney Rebel, 97 Mortimer Street, London W1; Jeffrey Rogers Juniors Ltd, Elsley House, 24/30 Great Titchfield Street, London W1; Topcoat Ltd, 13-15 Great Castle Street, London W1 and Yours and Mine Ltd, 144 Seven Sisters Road, London N7.

In the evening Her Royal Highness attended the Master Tailors' Annual Appeal Dinner, Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London W1.

Mrs William Nunneley was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 6: The Prince of Wales, President of The Prince of Wales's Advisory Group on Disability, held a meeting of his advisers at Kensington Palace.

Subsequently His Royal Highness gave a lunch at Kensington Palace for leading figures in the hotel and tourist industries.

The Prince of Wales attended the Town and Country Planning Association's exhibition at the Mall Galleries, SW1.

Mr Peter Westmacott was in attendance.

The Princess of Wales attended the McDonald's Child of Achievement Awards Ceremony, Guildhall, London EC2.

Mr Patrick Jephson was in attendance.

The Prince and Princess of Wales attended a dinner at Eton College, Windsor, Berkshire.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 6: The Duke of Kent, Patron of the London Philharmonic, this evening received Maestro Franz Weiser-Möst, Music Director, Mrs Judy Grahame, Marketing Director and Mr Elliott Bernerd, Trust Chairman.

His Royal Highness was represented by Commander Roger Walker, RN at the Memorial Service for Colonel Alexander Lewis which was held in St James's Church, Piccadilly, London W1, today.

Memorial service

Professor Timothy J. McElwain

The High Commissioner for New Zealand attended a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Professor Timothy J. McElwain held on Tuesday at the Priory Church of St Bartholomew-the-Great, West Smithfield.

The Rev Michael Whawell, Vicar and Hospitaller of St Bartholomew's Hospital, officiated, assisted by the Rev David Brown, senior chaplain, Royal Marsden Hospital, and the Rev Roderick Cosh, chaplain's assistant.

Dr Trevor Powles and Dr Ian Smith, consultant cancer physicians, Royal Marsden Hospital, read the lessons. Professor J.S. Malpas, professor of medical oncology, St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, also representing the Royal College of Physicians, and Mr Barrie Evans, representing Australasian medical oncologists, gave addresses. Others present included:

Mrs McElwain (widow), Mrs Miranda Malan (mother), Mrs E. Haworth (mother-in-law), Dr K S Haworth (sister-in-law), Mrs Marion Judd, Miss Marjorie Judd, Mr Hugo Judd, Mr Nick Viney, Mrs Robin Viney, Mrs Anne-Marie Dartnell.

Mr Marmaduke Hussey (chairman of the board of governors, Royal Marsden Hospital) with Miss Phyllis Cunningham (general manager), Mr Brian Mills (chairman, Essex Committee), Mr James Lemkin (representing the trustees) and Mrs Joan Cripps (League of Friends); Professor Lesley Rees (dean of the medical college, St Bartholomew's Hospital), Dr Jeffrey Tobias (University College Hospital), Dr Rodney Franklin (Hereford Hospital), Dr John Wilson (Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street), Professor B Lake (Institute of Child Health), Professor J Gordon McVie (scientific director, Cancer Research Campaign), Professor D Crowther (Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester).

Dr M J Crumpton and Dr Margaret Swain (Imperial Cancer Research Fund), Mrs Ann Pendry (Institute of Cancer Research), Mr Tony Howell (secretary, Association of Cancer Physicians), Mr Christopher Paine (Royal College of Radiologists), Professor G F Rudds (MRC Cell Board), Mrs Jean Mossman (UK CCSG, MRC), Professor A V Hoffbrand (British Society for Haematology), Dr A Roques (South West Thames Haematology Circle), Professor Hilary Calvert (University of Newcastle upon Tyne), Ms Olivia Dix (director, Bacup), Mrs Pat Pilkington (Cancer Help Centre, Bristol), Mrs Lesley Metcalfe (Leukaid).

Mrs Ian Smith, Mrs Trevor Powles, Mr Tom Powles, Miss Lucy Powles, Dr and Mrs Ray Powles, Mrs J S Malpas, Dr and Mrs M Gore, Dr D Cunningham, Dr S Meller, Dr and Mrs I Judson, Professor K Harrap, Dr J and Dr B Miller, Dr and Mrs P E Thompson Hancock, Dr Walter and Dr Jane Somerville, Mr Gordon Piller, Mr M Slevin, Dr Jane Leaver, Dr Michael Wilson, Professor and Mrs R H Adamson, Professor A L Harris, Dr E Kest, Professor K D Bagshawe, Professor O Wolff, Professor Robin Weiss, Professor Gerald Westbury, Professor and Mrs Michael Peckham, Mr Tim Clement-Jones, Father Thomas McCabe, Father Barry Angus, Mrs Daphne Hamilton-Fairley, Mr Trevor Hart, Professor Michael Baum, Professor I. Spitz, Professor H Kay and Professor H H Bentall.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will open the new building of the Royal Brompton National Heart and Lung Hospitals in Sydney Street, Chelsea, at 2.30.

The Duke of Edinburgh will attend a luncheon at Schroders, 120 Cheapside, at 12.45.

The Princess Royal will open the magnetic resonance scanner suite at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, at 9.30; as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Cutler and Gross (Sloane Optical), Knightsbridge, at 10.45; and Patrizia Wigan Designs, Bishops Road, SW6, at 11.40. As Chancellor of London University, she will open the new grandstand extension at the athletic ground in Motspur Park, New Malden, at 2.00. Later, as Commandant-in-Chief of the St John Ambulance and Nursing Cadets, she will attend a reception in Speaker's House at 6.20; and, as Patron of the HFT Development Trust, will attend a quiz evening at the Café Royal at 7.30.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.J.L. Forrest and Miss C.C. Moore

The engagement is announced between Neville, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Forrest, of Sonning-on-Thames, Berkshire, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Moore, of Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.

Prince Geoffrey Galitzine and Miss L. Papayanni

The engagement is announced between Geoffrey, only son of Prince Alexander and the late Princess Alexander Galitzine, of Wimbledon, London, and Lora, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicholas A. Papayannis, of Athens, Greece.

Mr W.H.M. Gibson and Miss C.H. Talbot Rice

The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs Colin Gibson, of Mare Hill House, Pulborough, West Sussex, and Catherine, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Talbot Rice, of Coombe House, Wheatley, Oxfordshire.

Captain M.R. Hanscomb and Lieutenant K.M. Shears

The engagement is announced between Mark, eldest son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs R.D. Hanscomb, and Kym, daughter of Mr and Mrs H.I. Thomsen, of Wellington, South Africa.

Mr M.C. Pethers and Miss E.F. Freeman

The engagement is announced between Marcus, son of Mr and Mrs Rond Pethers, of Dulwich, London, and Emma, daughter of Mr Michael Freeman, of Camden Town, London, and Mrs Janet Freeman, of Brockley, London.

Mr J.A. Railton and Miss G.S. Kermack

The engagement is announced between James, son of Colonel and Mrs J.D. Railton, of Deptford, Wiltshire, and Gill, daughter of Mr and Mrs N.R. Kermack, of Helmsley, North Yorkshire.

Mr M.I. Spriggs and Miss P.L. Hawkins

The engagement is announced between Michael, youngest son of Mrs Sheila Spriggs, of Wylam, Northumberland, and the late Dr Tony Spriggs, and Louise, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hawkins, of Horsted Keynes, West Sussex.

Mr J.L. Weston and Miss M-R. Woodhouse

The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr and Mrs H.W. Weston, of Duntisbourne Abbots, Gloucestershire, and Mary-Rose, daughter of Mr R.W. Woodhouse and the late Mrs Woodhouse, of Walsingham, Norfolk.

Mr P.D. Whitehead and Miss P.J. Wacey

The engagement is announced between Peter, only son of Mr and Mrs M.D.H. Whitehead, of Burnaston, Derbyshire, and Paula, elder daughter of Mr E.J. Wacey, of Faversham, Kent, and Mrs B. Wacey, of Sudbury, Suffolk.

Mr E.C.A. Wills and Miss J.H. Allen

The engagement is announced between Edward, younger son of Mr and Mrs M.A. Wills, of St Cross, Winchester, and Julia, elder daughter of Mr G. Allen, of Cheltenham, and Mrs A. Allen, of Kensington, W8.

OBITUARIES

SIR LAWRENCE GOWING

Sir Lawrence Gowing, CBE, painter, art historian and teacher, died on February 5 aged 72. He was born on April 21, 1918.

OF ALL his abilities, Lawrence Gowing would no doubt have been happiest to be remembered as a painter. He began as a painter, achieved a reputation during the war years (when he was a conscientious objector) and continued to paint up to and beyond his major retrospective at the Serpentine in 1982. But though this was respectfully received, his real talents lay more in art history and especially in conveying to others what he had discovered. He made art come brilliantly alive for the many who studied under him at the Slade and elsewhere, and even more spectacularly for the millions who saw his two BBC television series, *Three Painters*, in 1984 and 1986. His message was that the grandeur of art was a quality of the real world, not some idealised abstraction, and his own impassioned belief compelled a similar belief in others.

Even at the beginning of his career his interests were not limited to painting and talking about painting. After leaving school he had a fashionable yen to become a film-maker. He wrote to W. H. Auden, who was then working for the GPO Film Unit, to ask his advice. Auden replied wryly: "You only want to become a film director because you think it is the art of the future. It isn't. Art is the art of the future." Gowing took this observation to heart; through Auden, coincidentally, he also met William Coldstream, another painter/film-maker who was to be his close friend and colleague throughout his life. If he was dissuaded from trying to communicate through the cinema, he did at least realise that communication was his forte and soon entered on a lifetime of teaching, achieving the position of professor of fine art at King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, when he was just 29.

He was a man of strong vanity. He did not take argument well, and many hapless artists and students who got on his wrong side lived to rue the day. On the other hand, his likes were as passionately held as his dislikes. If he sensed real talent in even the most unlikely case he was fierce in its defence, support and propagation. He was also exceptionally able to recognise gifts very different from his own, such as that of the coalminer-artist Nicholas Evans.

He was unstoppable, too, in his advocacy of unfashionable views on the art of the past. His last achievement in this field was the exhibition he organised at the Royal Academy and elsewhere two years ago on the early work of his beloved Cézanne. Almost single-handedly, that brought about a major critical reappraisal.

Coming from a Norfolk farming family of no particular artistic sympathies, Lawrence Gowing was born in Stamford and was educated at Quaker schools, the Downs and Leighton Park. At the Downs he encountered the art teacher Maurice Feild who introduced him to oil painting and encouraged him to paint directly from observation. Gowing always acknowledged his debt to this remarkable and, in his view, unjustly neglected man.

Within a year of leaving school Gowing had become a precocious member of the circle of Coldstream, Graham Bell, Victor Pasmore and Claude Rogers and had completely assimilated their style of closely observed tonal painting, later nick-named Euston Road. As a conscientious objector he was able to



paint continuously throughout the second world war, and the portraits, landscapes and still-lifes he then painted, vividly observed yet reflecting and even dramatising his admiration for Courbet and Cézanne, are among the more ambitious paintings of the decade. It was at this time that he began to be known as a writer. His *Notes of a Painter* which appeared over a period in John Lehmann's *Penguin New Writing* were fluent, allusive and witty commentaries on every aspect of painting past and present, written as if he had just turned from the easel to scribble down the reflections that had come into his head as he worked.

Before the war ended Gowing had begun his career as a teacher, working at Camberwell School of Art, where he was soon joined by Pasmore and Coldstream. In 1948 he went to Newcastle upon Tyne; shortly after this it was discovered that he had tuberculosis. While recovering he put the finishing touches to the book that laid the foundations of his reputation as an art historian: *Vermeer* was published in 1952.

In 1953 Gowing was appointed trustee of the Tate Gallery, starting an association that lasted for many years. In 1954 he organised the first of his Cézanne exhibitions, shown at Edinburgh and the Tate. Guided by his painter's judgment of the internal evidence, he challenged the accepted dating of several important works. The furore that this provoked among certain art historians abated when John Rewald produced documents that supported Gowing's dates. In 1959 he left Newcastle to take up a demanding position with the ILEA. Two London art schools, the Regent Street Polytechnic and the Chelsea Polytechnic, were to be amalgamated in a single school. The school that resulted under Gowing's direction became something of a model at a time when art schools all over the country were in the process of re-shaping themselves.

After six years at Chelsea he surprised his colleagues by resigning his trusteeship at the Tate in order to join its staff as keeper of the British collection. In 1966 he arranged the first of several important exhibitions in America. This was his *Turner: Imagination and Reality* at the Museum of Modern Art, New York. It was the first time that Turner had been seen in depth by the American public. Gowing's catalogue did not hesitate to present him as a precursor of many of the attitudes current among painters of the New York School. On the heels of his Turner, Gowing organised an exhibition of Matisse for the Museum of Modern Art, ushering in a preoccupation with the great French colourist that lasted for many years and produced a major exhibition at the Hayward Gallery in 1968, a film for the Arts Council and in 1979 the publication of a brilliant monograph.

After two years at the Tate Gowing went to Leeds to become professor of fine art at the university, remaining there until 1975 when he returned to London to take William Coldstream's place as Slade professor at University College. He was at the Slade for ten years, meanwhile continuing public work that included membership of the Arts Council of Great Britain and chairmanship of several of its committees, trusteeship of the British Museum and of the National Portrait Gallery.

Despite his many public obligations, Gowing had continued to paint, often in an experimental vein that took him a long way from the romantic realism of his early work. The most dramatic of these experiments led to a series of figure paintings in which his own body, spreadeagled, naked and covered in paint, was applied to the canvas. These astonishing objects were shown at a retrospective exhibition at the Serpentine Gallery in 1982.

After retiring from the Slade in 1985 Gowing spent a year in Washington as a research fellow at the National Gallery and later accepted a curatorial appointment at the Phillips Collection, commuting between London and Washington until his doctors forbade him to fly. He found it difficult to put any limit on his undertakings. Even when ill-health drained his physical resources, his enthusiasm spurred him on. Few writers on painting have matched his expression – subtle in insight, precise in analysis, colourful in its rhetoric, unbounded in its generosity. And though his television opportunities hardly rivalled Kenneth Clark's, within a narrower compass he gave the general public its entrée to the otherwise specialized worlds of Masaccio, Vermeer, Breughel, Goya and inevitably Cézanne and Matisse.

He was appointed CBE in 1952, elected ARA in 1978 and knighted in 1982.

He is survived by his third wife, Jennifer, and three daughters.

FATHER PEDRO ARRUPE

Father Pedro Arrupe, Superior General of the Society of Jesus from 1965 to 1983, died in Rome on February 5 aged 83 after some years of ill health. He was born in Bilbao on November 14, 1907.

PEDRO Arrupe led the Jesuits during one of the most sensitive periods of their history in the wake of the Second Vatican Council. The most difficult part of his role was that of balancing the Jesuits' special vow of obedience to the Pope, which he cherished, against his own liberal instincts as they concerned a variety of activities. His outstanding achievement was to commit the Jesuits, notably through their 32nd general congregation in the early 1970s, to the defence of the poor and the under-privileged as a primary apostolate. This was seen by the world at large in his support for the South American Jesuits' efforts for the rural and urban workers against oppressive regimes – a role which was especially notable in El Salvador. Thus the Jesuits were clearly seen to have donned the mantle of leadership in what became known as "liberation theology".

His other quality was a liberality towards theological speculation and he was committed to "open government" of the order and widespread consultation. Neither the movement's tendency towards social and political involvement in various parts of the world nor Arrupe's toleration of unrestricted theological discussions made for an easy relationship with Vatican departments or with Popes Paul VI and John Paul II, despite his friendship with the former, and an incipient understanding with the latter. The pontificates of both men, but especially that of the latter, saw a resolution of the crisis facing the church in terms of docile priests, orthodox theology and a firm direction from the Vatican which would embrace religious orders such as the Jesuits and compel them to obedience. Against such a background in which materialism and unbridled thinking were seen as the principal enemies of the faith, Arrupe uncompromisingly declared: "For hundreds of millions of Catholics the real crisis of faith comes not from materialism nor from unrestricted theological discussion but from the brutal misery of their own existence." He always knew that such a stance would mean political involvement, particularly in Central and South America.



Within his own order Arrupe was a well-loved but controversial figure. His classical theological language troubled the liberals while the conservatives feared his "permissiveness". His authority was founded on his wide experience which had included 27 years as a missionary in Japan. He had been in Hiroshima at the time the atomic bomb was dropped, and his subsequent leadership in the organisation of mercy relief had made him something of a legend long before he came to high office.

Pedro Arrupe was a Basque, like the founder of the Society of Jesus, Ignatius Loyola. His father was the founder and proprietor of the newspaper *La Gaceta del Norte*. He studied medicine at Madrid University for five years before joining the Society of Jesus in 1927. After studying philosophy and theology in Spain, Belgium and Holland he was ordained in 1936. After a further two years of theology at St Mary's College, Kansas, he was sent in 1938 to Japan. Having mastered the language he was appointed parish priest at Yamaguchi where he was later to become superior of the district and master of novices. In the meantime, with Japan already fighting in China and with wider hostilities with the United States impending, a climate of fear and hostility to foreigners had developed and Arrupe was imprisoned for a month.

After his release he continued working, living in a house near Hiroshima from where on August 6, 1945, he witnessed the devastation of the city caused by the first of the two atomic bombs which were dropped on Japan. He immediately turned the noviciate into an emergency hospital and led teams of his men into the ruins of the city to give medical aid to the victims and spiritual consolation to the dying and the bereaved. The heroic effort of Arrupe amid the scenes of suffering and shock which followed the bombing is recorded in John Hersey's book *Hiroshima*.

Arrupe was appointed vice-provincial of the Japanese province in 1954. He brought Jesuits from all over the world to Japan and created many new faculties in Sophia University, a Jesuit foundation in Tokyo. When Japan was established as a Jesuit province in 1958 Arrupe became the society's first provincial superior in the country.

By this time he had established himself as a prolific writer and wide-ranging thinker. He was the author of eight books in Japanese including a life of St Francis Xavier, a five-volume commentary on the *Spiritual Exercises* of Ignatius Loyola and a translation of the works of St John of the Cross. He had also written (in Spanish) about Japan and the experience of the atomic bomb.

From his Japanese appointment he was elected 28th Superior General of the Society of Jesus in 1965. He set himself to visit the order's provinces all over the world embarking on journeys to countries as far apart as India, Alaska and Australia. At the same time he continued to be prolific in his output of letters and addresses to the order and to the wider world. The titles of these indicate the catholicity (in the general sense) of his concerns and the progressive nature of his outlook – though this must not be confused with mere modishness since his open-mindedness stood on the foundations of a rigorous classical education and a deep Ignatian spirituality. Furthermore he had a profound respect for the office of the Supreme Pontiff and for the hierarchical nature of the church. "Ecumenism", "The young", "The role of the Jesuit in politics", "St Ignatius", "The crisis of faith", "Marxist analysis" and "The meaning of liberation" were just a few of the subjects he ranged over in more than 150 papers. Many of these were not to the taste of a conservative Pope who saw a deep lack of discipline in the order. In addition complaints about the political influence of the order in sensitive regions of the world poured into the Holy See. Paradoxically, when in 1980 Arrupe indicated that he wanted to resign his position, Pope John Paul II asked him to stay on. There had been widespread suspicion that Arrupe's intention was in some sense a response to pressure from above and the Pope's decision caused some confusion among commentators. Tragically, in 1981, Arrupe suffered a severe stroke which effectively ended his capacity to lead his order. He nominated an appointee to take his place, but the Pope took the unprecedented step of appointing Father Paolo Dezza as his personal delegate to govern the society in the Pontiff's name. Many feared the end of the society's independence, but in the event in 1982 the Pope announced that he would consent to a convocation of a general congregation to elect a new superior general. In September 1983 Arrupe formally resigned and was succeeded by a Dutch Jesuit, Father Peter-Hans Kolvenbach.

From that time onwards Arrupe had lived in a state of gradually declining health in a room in the Jesuit Curia in the Borgo Santo Spirito.

Royal Society of Chemistry

The following have been admitted as Fellows of The Royal Society of Chemistry during the period December 7, 1990, and January 25, 1991. They are entitled to use the designation Chartered Chemist and the letters CChem FRSC.

December 7, 1990:

M F Chaplin, B A J Clark, S Everatt, L P Fisher, H Goodman, J M Hatfield, K Hargreaves, R A Jewsbury, G Kinkert, C Lewis, I J McColm, J Marshall, J Passmore, L Rampazzo, A R Roeder, K S Sastry, R J Vincent.

January 25, 1991:

J L Allen, D W Bentsfield, T Brown, K J Caldicott, R A Carillo, J N Dean, R A Evans, N A R Falla, G F Gibbons, B D Hancock, J Harper, J S Histon, T Hogberg, H L Jones, J R Martin, J E Newberry, T Pryce-Jones, K B Pugh, D S Ryder, R C I Slade, L F Tietze, D A Tinsley, J C Walton.

Turners' Company

At the annual Awards Court held yesterday in Apothecaries' Hall, the Master of the Worshipful Company of Turners, Mr B.C. Johnston, welcomed the visitors and introduced Mr Michael Neale, OBE, President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

Mr Neale presented the medals, prizes and certificates to the three winners in the Engineering Design competition, to the 12 Craft winners (Mechanical Engineering and Woodworking) in the City and Guilds examinations and to the three Armed Services engineering craft trainees.

Dinners

Fletchers' Company

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended a ladies' dinner of the Fletchers' Company held last night at Farmers' and Fletchers' Hall. Mr J.A.B. Redgrave, Master, presided. The Lord Mayor, Mr R.J. Upton, Master of the Farmers' Company, and Mr F.N. Steiner, Upper Warden of the Fletchers' Company, also spoke.

Royal Society of St George

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster attended a dinner given by the Royal Society of St George last night at Church House to mark the 39th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. Mr John Minshull-Fogg, chairman, presided and the other speakers were the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Sir Colin Cole, Garter Principal King of Arms and president of the society, and Rear-Admiral Kenneth Snow, Receiver-General of Westminster Abbey.

Luxembourg Society

The Ambassador of Luxembourg and Mme Molitor and Mr Tristan Garel-Jones, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Mrs Garel-Jones were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the Luxembourg Society held last night at the Anglo-Belgian Club. Mr Percy Grieve, QC, chairman of the society, presided. Among others present were:

Lord and Lady Auckland, Lord Croft, Lord and Lady Ezra, Lady Marina, Sir David and Lady Nicolson, Sir Jean-Pierre and Lady Warner, Mr Tony Jessel, MP, and Mrs Grieve.

Foundation for Science and Technology

Lord Butterworth, Chairman of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a dinner discussion held last night at Maynard's Restaurant after a visit to News International. Among those present were:

Lady Butterworth, Lord Chorley, Baroness Ewart-Biggs, Lord Flowers, Sir Alastair Pilkington, Sir Trevor Skeet, MP, Mr J A Dwyer, Mr Ivan Fallon, Mr Oscar Rolth and Dr Peter Warren.

Service dinner

Oxford University Air Squadron

Professor R.J. O'Neill and Air Chief Marshal Sir Brendan Jackson, Air Member for Supply and Organisation, were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the Oxford University Air Squadron held last night at the squadron's headquarters, Manor Road. Squadron Leader J.D. Smithson, Commanding Officer, presided. Among the other guests were:

Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher Foxley-Norris, Air Vice-Marshal R M Austin (Air Officer Commanding and Commandant, RAF College, Cranwell), Air Vice-Marshal T Garden, Professor W J Albery (Oxford University College), Dr J Mather (Provost, The Queen's College), and Professor C Zeeman (Principal, Hertford College).

Birthdays today

Mrs G. T. Banks, former Registrar General for England and Wales, 58; Lord Bellwin, 68; Mr P.W. Bennett, former chairman, W.H. Smith and Son Holdings, 74; Mrs Caroline Bingham, writer, 53; Lord Botiomley, 84; Miss Dora Bryan, actress, 67; the Earl of Cork and Orrery, 81; Professor Sir Clifford Darby, geographer, 82; Mr Gerald Davies, rugby player, 46.

The Earl of Harewood, 68; Mr Michael James, writer and nuclear energy adviser, 50; Lord Keith of Kinkel, 69; Sir John Leahy, diplomat, 63; Dr Barbara MacGibbon, pathologist, 63; Sir George Mosley, civil servant, 66; Mr G.J. Mulcahy, executive chairman, Kingfisher, 49; Sir Philip Myers, former chief constable, North Wales, 60; Sir Geoffrey Peacock, former Remembrancer of the City of London, 71; Sir Robert Reid, chairman of West Lambeth Health Authority, 70; Mr R.W. Watson, former director-general, NFU, 65; Sir Brian Windeyer, radiologist, 87.

Dr V.E. Cosslett

A memorial concert for Dr V.E. Cosslett will be held in Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, on Saturday, March 9, 1991, at 2.45 pm. Tickets available from the College Secretary.

Luncheon

Prime Minister

The Prime Minister was host at a luncheon held yesterday at 10 Downing Street in honour of Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, Greek Prime Minister. The other guests were:

Mr Stavros Dimas, the Greek Ambassador, Mr Argyriadis, Mrs Dora Bakoyannani, Mr Byron Polydoras, Mr Panayiotis Economou, Mr Arramopoulos, Mr Michael Heseltine, MP, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, MP, Mr John Wakeham, MP, Lord Hesketh, the Hon Archibald Hamilton, MP, the Hon Timothy Sainsbury, MP, Mr Tristan Garel-Jones, MP, Mr Alastair Goodlad, MP, Sir Bernard Ibrims, MP, Mr Nigel Forman, MP, Dr Ian Twinn, MP, Sir James Spicer, MP, Mr David Mellor, MP, Mr Donald Anderson, MP, Sir David Steel, MP.

Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Earl Jellicoe, Sir Nicholas Henderson, Mr Peter Lazlo, Sir Kit McMahon, Sir Norman Payne, Lord Sterling of Plaistow, Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, Sir Brian Corby, Mr Iain Vallance, Mr Charles Newbold, Mr Henry Keswick, Mr Peter Levy, Sir Ernest Harrison, Sir Allen Sheppard, Sir Roderick MacLeod, Mr David Simon, Lord Hanson, the Hon Monty Woodhouse, Dr Richard Cave, Professor Peter Parsons, Mr Stelios Argyros, Mr Paul Karacostas, Mr John Haddjipateras, Captain John Lazaki, Dr Spiro Latsis, Mr Michael Checkland, Mr John Burt, Sir David English, Mr Richard Lambert, Sir Jeremy Thomas, the Bishop of Lincoln, Sir David Mlart, Sir Clive Whitmore, the Hon Mrs Sarah Hogg and Sir Charles Powell.

Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach

The life barony conferred on Mr Brian Griffiths has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Griffiths of Fforestfach, of Fforestfach in the County of West Glamorgan.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Saint Thomas More, humanist and statesman, chancellor 1529-32, London, 1478; Charles Dickens, Portsmouth, 1812; Sir William Huggins, astronomer, London, 1824; Sir James Murray, philologist, Denholm, Borders, 1837; Sinclair Lewis, novelist, Nobel laureate, 1930, Sauk Centre, Minnesota, 1885.

DEATHS: James Stewart, 2nd Earl of Moray (the bonny earl), murdered, Donibristle, Fife, 1592; William Boyce, organist and composer, London, 1779; Ann Radcliffe, novelist, London, 1823; Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu, novelist, Dublin, 1873; Adolphe Sax, inventor of the saxophone, Paris, 1894, Daniel François Malan, prime minister of South Africa 1948-54, Stellenbosch, Cape Colony, 1959.

Buckingham Palace Luncheon

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh held a lunch party yesterday at Buckingham Palace. The guests were:

Miss Hilary Beauchamp (head of the art/design department, Holloway School), Miss Doreen Hunter (headmistress, Hunterhouse College), Professor Miss Gillian Lynne (director and choreographer), Mr John Stenham (director general, Confederation of British Industry), Mr Nick Faldo (golfer), Mr Michael Medlicott (chief executive, British Tourist Authority), Mr Jonathan Porter, QC (Attorney-General to the Duchy of Lancaster) and Mr David Plowright (chairman, Granada Television).

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'My food', Jesus said to them, 'is to obey the will of the one who sent me and to finish the work he gave me to do.' St. John 4:34 GNB

BIRTHS

ARMITAGE - On January 27th, at The Portland Hospital, to Phillippa (née Grant) and Michael, a daughter. Augusta Ruth Blaine, a sister for Charles.

BARTER - On February 4th, 1991, to Alyson (née Greenbury) and Stephen, a daughter, Hannah Bryony Elizabeth, a sister for Olivia.

CLARKSON WEBB - On January 22nd, in Oxford, to Anne and Tim Foggin, a daughter, Emily Clare.

GRACE - On February 6th, 1991, to Pamela (née Scott) and John Grace, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, a son.

DIXON - On February 3rd to Tessa and Adrian, a son, Edward Alistair.

DUNCAN - On February 6th 1991 to Margrit (née Prefell) and Patrick, a son, Christopher Patrick, a brother for Charlotte.

FOGGIN - See Clarkson Webb.

GASCOIGNE - On February 6th, to Penny and Patrick, a daughter, Cecily.

GREAVES - On February 1st to Patty (née Conyn) and Mark, a son, Oliver, a brother for Emma.

HEPWORTH - On January 31st 1991 to Elizabeth and Mark of York, a son, James William Baines.

LATUSKIE - On February 5th, 1991 at 10.53 am., to Krystyna (née Jurechnio) and Don, a son, Charles Daniel.

MACFARLANE - On February 6th to Ailsa (née Allen) and Benjamin, a daughter, Francesca.

MARTIN - On February 5th, 1991, in Melbourne, Australia to Louise (née Duncan) and John, a son, Henry Roy James.

SCOTT - On February 5th, to Rosalind (née Synge) and Richard, a daughter, Isabelle Charlotte.

SIDDIQI - On January 26th 1991 to Lucy (née Jackson Cousin) and Tarik, a daughter, Tilan Serena.

WALKER - On February 4th, at The Portland Hospital, to Fiona (née Townsend) and Kim, a daughter, Emily Louise.

DEATHS

ABBOTT - On February 2nd, 1991, at her fathers home near Woodbridge, Suffolk, Mairi, aged 40, of Kentish Town, London NW5, after a long illness courageously borne, deeply mourned by son Stephen, father Neil, family and many friends.

AGAR - On February 4th William Talbot aged 72. Beloved husband of Angela. Funeral at Chelsea Old Church at 2.30pm on Tuesday February 12th. Enquiries to Funeral Directors, Levertons (071-387 5075).

ALLAUN - On February 5th 1991, at St. Monica Home, Westbury-On-Trym, Bristol, Ray, aged 92 years, dearly loved sister of Frank Allaun. Deeply mourned by her many friends. Service at St. Monica Chapel, Tuesday, February 12th, at 2pm, followed by private cremation at Taunton. No flowers please, donations if desired, to Bristol Age Care.

ANDERSON - On February 4th 1991 suddenly following a short illness, Peter Anderson. Dearly loved husband of Rosy and father of Laurence, Paul and Elizabeth. Private funeral on February 13th. No flowers please, but memorial service to be announced.

BANFORD - On January 31st, in hospital after a short illness, Leslie Pearson Bamford, OBE, of Hurworth, Darlington, loving and beloved husband of Liane, a much loved father and grandfather. Funeral service, All Saints Church, Hurworth, 1.15pm on Monday February 11th. Donations in lieu of flowers to: Darlington and District Hospice Movement, c/o 41 Woodland Rd, Darlington.

BARACS - On February 4th, after a brief illness, Mary, deeply mourned by family and friends. Funeral service at Golders Green Crematorium, West Chapel, on Tuesday February 12th, at 3.30 pm.

BOOTH - On February 2nd, at home, Arthur Harold, aged 88 years, formerly of The Press Association. Happy days. Eve, Adrian and Brenda.

FARR - On January 31st 1991 peacefully in Stratford-Upon-Avon, Heather Mary, beloved sister and aunt. Private cremation but donations if wished to Save the Children, 17 Grove Lane, Camberwell, London SE5 8RD.

FISHER - On February 5th 1991, at Cupar, Fife, Alastair Alan Macaulay, in his 89th year (formerly of Edinburgh and Pitmuies), beloved husband of Penny and loving father and grandfather.

HALL - On Sunday February 3rd, peacefully, Petrina, much loved mother of Alister and Richard, grandmother of Marcus, Caspar, Francesca, Alexander and Matthew. Funeral service Tuesday February 12th, at Hales Church, at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only.

HASE - On February 4th, peacefully at home at Stonham Aspal, Suffolk, Jean, loved by all who knew her. Cremation at the West Suffolk Crematorium, Bury St Edmunds on Tuesday February 12th at 1.30pm. No flowers by request, but donations in lieu, if wished to Cancer Research, The Royal Marsden Hospital, London W3.

HAMDEN - On February 2nd 1991, peacefully at Eglo Austria, Lucie, aged 91, beloved wife of Otto and mother of Gisela. Cremation in Salzburg.

HORRIS - On February 4th peacefully in West Wittering Nursing Home, Stewart Harold O.B.E. Funeral service at St. Peter and St. Paul's church, West Wittering, Sussex on Monday February 11th at 10.45 a.m., followed by cremation at Chichester crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations, if wished, to Cobnor Activities Centre Trust, Cobnor Point, Chichester or the Jubilee Sailing Trust, Southampton. A service of thanksgiving is to be held at St. Paul's church, Knightsbridge, William Tom Place, on March 13th at 2.30 p.m.

NEWMAN - On February 4th peacefully, Harold Ernest Montague Lt. Col. (R.E.) aged 90 years. Dearly beloved husband of Patricia and much loved father of Christopher and Daphne. Funeral service St. Michaels Church, Brent Knoll on Friday. February 8th at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired for Guide Dogs for the Blind to Messrs PJ Harris Funeral Directors, 27 Cross St, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset. Tel: 0278 782885.

PARRY - On February 4th suddenly at her home in Sheffield, Thelma, beloved wife of Dr. Wilfrid Parry and very dear mother of Anne. Service at Hutcliffe Wood crematorium, Sheffield on Tuesday February 12th at 1pm. Enquiries to John Heath & Sons Funeral Directors, Sheffield. Requiescat-in-Pace.

PASSINGHAM - On February 6th, Barnet, aged 83, much loved by Meg and all his children and Grandchildren. Funeral at St. Andrews Church, Great Linford, Milton Keynes Wednesday February 13th at 12noon followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Cancer Research.

READ - On February 6th 1991 William of Harrogate, beloved husband of Flora, father of Mary, Charles and the late Elizabeth. Funeral Private.

ROBERTSON - On Wednesday February 6th 1991, suddenly at Ninewell's Hospital, Dundee, R.N.M. Robertson, beloved husband of Lorna, loving father of Patrick, Susan, Mary and David. Funeral service at Dundee crematorium on Monday February 11th at 10.45 a.m., followed by cremation at Chichester crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations, if wished, to Cobnor Activities Centre Trust, Cobnor Point, Chichester or the Jubilee Sailing Trust, Southampton. A service of thanksgiving is to be held at St. Paul's church, Knightsbridge, William Tom Place, on March 13th at 2.30 p.m.

SCOTT - On February 5th, to Rosalind (née Synge) and Richard, a daughter, Isabelle Charlotte.

SIDDIQI - On January 26th 1991 to Lucy (née Jackson Cousin) and Tarik, a daughter, Tilan Serena.

WALKER - On February 4th, at The Portland Hospital, to Fiona (née Townsend) and Kim, a daughter, Emily Louise.

WEINBERT - On February 3rd peacefully in hospital after an illness courageously borne, George, beloved husband of Leo, much loved father of Romana, Simonetta, Michaela and Rachel and grandfather of Cosima. Funeral Mass February 6th, private cremation February 7th at West London crematorium. Kensal Green. Donations in lieu of flowers to any Cancer Research charity much appreciated.

WILLIAMS - On February 4th, peacefully in hospital, Maya Ann (Pinka), dearly loved wife of Bill and mother of Emma. Funeral service to take place at St Mary Magdalene Church, Cowden on Wednesday 13th February at 2.30pm followed by interment. Flowers if desired to S Smith & Son, 127 Lingfield Road, Edenbridge.

WILSON - On February 5th 1991, Kitty, of Saffron Walden, Essex, peacefully at The Saffron Walden Community Hospital, aged 87 years. Wife of the late Stanley Wilson. Funeral service at St. Mary's Parish Church, Saffron Walden on Thursday February 14th at 12 noon, followed by Interment at Thaxted Churchyard. Family flowers only please, but donations, if desired for the 'Cancer Relief MacMillan Fund' may be sent c/o H. Peasgood and Sons, 62 Gold Street, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1EJ.

WINCKWORTH - On February 2nd 1991, peacefully at The Woodville Rest Home, Bexhill-on-Sea, Elizabeth Maria Clement. Requiem mass will be held at Christchurch, St Leonard's on Thursday February 14th at 1pm followed by cremation at Hastings crematorium at 2pm. No flowers please.

WOODWARD - On January 31st, at Brendoncare, Winchester, Margaret Mary (née Wyatt), aged 92. Beloved wife of the late William Woodward, formerly of Hong Kong, dear mother of Dorothy, Joan and Anne, and a much loved grandmother. Funeral Service at St. Mary's Chapel, Chesil Street, Winchester, on Thursday, February 7th at 2.00pm. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, c/o Jno Stead & Son, Chesil Rise, Winchester.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

KHOURY - Carol, so dearly loved, left us 8 years ago. A memorial service will be held at 1pm on Thursday February 7th at Farm Street Church, London W1.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

COLE - On February 7th, 1990, Joan. Much loved and much missed by her family, Frankie, Mark, Alix, Robbie, Holly and Sam.

HAMILTON DAVIES - Peter 5.3.43. - 7.2.88. Always in our thoughts and remembered by his mother, J.B. Polly Jake and Harry.

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(Estate about £32,000)

BLAKE, THOMAS late of Flat 11 Chelmsford House, Holloway Road, Holloway, London N7 died at Highgate, London N6 on 15th October 1989
(Estate about £12,330)

BOULTON, EDITH ALICE BOULTON. Spinster late of The Lees, Old Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire died At Ashbourne on 13th April 1990
(Estate about £9,980)

BOWLES, FLORENCE BOWLES otherwise FLORENCE ELIZABETH BOWLES Spinster late of 6 Harmer Lane, Chipperfield, Kings Langley, Herts died At Wymondham, Norfolk on 13th January 1989
(Estate about £11,000)

FRANCIS, EVAN WALDO FRANCIS late of Ranger Lodge, Glandyfi, Machynlleth, Powys died At Aberystwyth. Dated on 29th August 1990
(Estate about £95,000)

GARD nee McFARLAND, ELIZABETH MAUDE GARD otherwise MAUD GARD otherwise MAUD ELIZABETH GARD nee McFARLAND Widow late of Flat 13, Weldon Court, 145 Sydney Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey died At Croydon, Surrey on 11th April 1990
(Estimated about £19,000)

HIDE nee CORSEY, HILDA MAUD NELLIE HIDE nee CORSEY, Single Woman late of 24, Barton Road, West Hampstead, London W14 died At Hammersmith, London W6 on 8th March 1990
(Estate about £6,500)

JEFFERY, ERNEST WILLIAM JEFFERY late of 48 Beacon Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire died There on 22nd October 1989
(Estate about £460,000)

McILVENNY, DENNIS JAMES McILVENNY late of "La Rosque", High Broadgate, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire died There on 4th August 1990
(Estate about £92,440)

RITCHIE, JAMES GORDON RITCHIE late of 30 Fletcher Buildings, Murdoch Crescent, Garden, London WC2 died At Lambeth SE1 on 27th May 1989
(Estate about £23,000)

SINCLAIR nee MACDONALD otherwise SPALDING Widow late of 138 Broomhouse Lane South, Parkside, Middlesex died At Park Royal, London NW10 on 30th December 1989
(Estate about £110,000)

The ids of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (S.V.), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

CHARITY COMMISSION for the Charity - Maurice and Samuel Lyon Heme

The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity, A copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Albans House, 57-60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX, quoting reference number FAD-234572-A9-LA.

THE BRITISH RAILWAYS BOARD hereby give advance notice, in accordance with Section 56 of the Transport Act, 1962, that they plan, subject to the provisions of Section 56 of the Act, to withdraw the passenger service between Canonbury (near Primrose Hill Station) and Camden Road Junction (near Dalston Kingsland Station) and Reading Lane Junction (near London Fields Station), and to close the following stations:-

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LEGAL NOTICES

LARK INTERNATIONAL (LONDON) LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act, 1986, that a Meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at The Palace Hotel, 31 Great Cumberland Place, London, W1, on Thursday, 14th February 1991 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for in Section 98 et seq.
A list of names and addresses of the above Company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the meeting of creditors.
Dated the 30th January 1991
K Ellis
Director

QUADRANT ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act, 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Poopleton & Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD on Tuesday the 12th day of February 1991 at 12 o'clock noon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.
Pursuant to Section 98, Subsection (2) (a) of the Act, Mr Peter Lomas of Poopleton & Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD is appointed to act as the Qualified Insolvency Practitioner who will furnish creditors with such information as they may reasonably required.
Dated 1st day of February 1991
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
A SMITH
DIRECTOR

RE: Telefax Network Ltd
and
The Insolvency Act 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act, 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at Trevist House, 186-192 High Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 1JQ, on Thursday the 14th February 1991, at 11.30 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.
A list of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the offices of Segal Davis Rose, Trevist House, 186-192 High Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 1JQ between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. as from Tuesday 12th February 1991.
Dated this 28th day of January 1991
O Davidson
Director

SCH SPARES DISTRIBUTION LIMITED
I, Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA of Poppleton and Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company on 29th January 1991 by the Members and Creditors.
Dated 4th February 1991
M.R. Dorrington FIPA
Liquidator

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Sellafield sends nuclear waste to the glasshouse

Now radioactive rubbish is to be sealed in crystal blocks for safety

Engineers believe they have found a safe method of disposing of highly active waste products. This month, Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, will open a £240 million plant at Sellafield that turns lethal nuclear wastes into glass blocks to be stored, if necessary for ever, without human intervention.

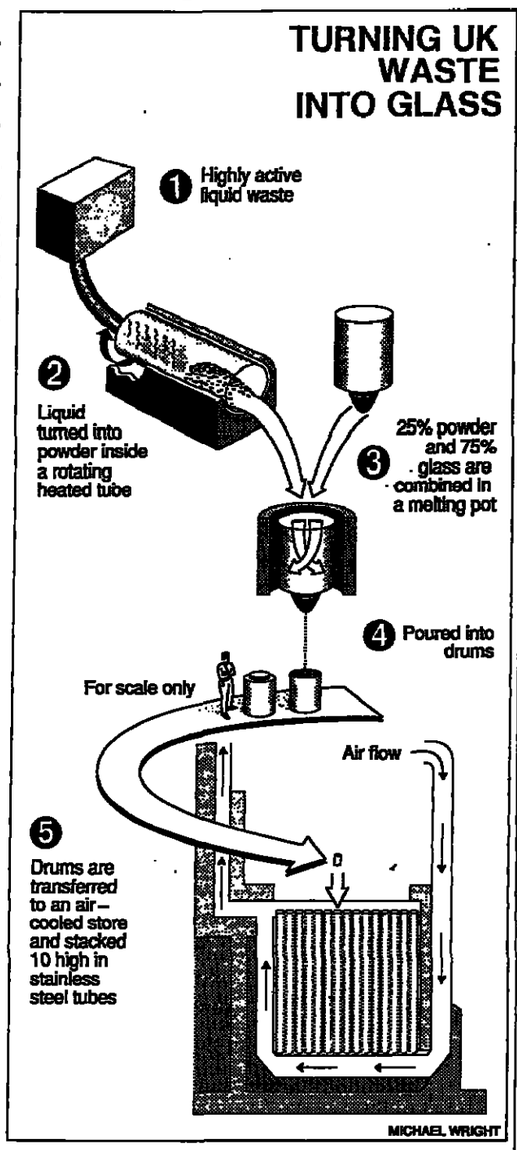
The plant is already converting wastes that have been stored as liquids for 40 years into solid glass blocks the size of a traditional milk churn.

The plant is based on French technology, but with improvements that make it far safer. At Sellafield, the solidified wastes require no cooling fans to prevent them from overheating, as they do in the French plants. In theory, once they are in place in the product store, they can be left without being touched for the hundreds of years they need before their radioactive contents become harmless.

Until now, dangerous wastes left after spent nuclear fuel has been reprocessed at Sellafield have been stored as liquids in double-walled stainless steel tanks surrounded by concrete. Because of the heat caused by radioactive decay, the tanks must be cooled.

The tanks are safe, but only if they can be continuously watched for possibly thousands of years to ensure that there are no leaks. Environmentalists argue that no society can be sure of surviving long enough to see that the wastes become safe.

Turning the wastes into solids that cannot leak and require no cooling except by natural air flow is seen as the answer. Ultimately, the solidified waste may be stored underground, but for the immediate future the containers will be stacked ten deep in vertical channels in the storage plant. The waste from foreign fuel reprocessed at Sellafield will be shipped back to the countries of origin.



In the Sellafield process the liquid wastes are piped into a slowly rotating furnace. The liquids are mixed with chemicals, including ordinary sugar, heated to 850C, and converted to a powder resembling instant coffee but carrying radiation levels so high that direct exposure would cause death in seconds. The powder is mixed with glass flakes and heated in a furnace to about 1,150C. The molten mixture is poured into stainless steel containers and allowed to cool.

A cap is welded on and the container is checked for radioactivity. The container is finally taken in a sealed flask along a short railway line and loaded into a channel in the floor of the store.

NIGEL HAWKES

Deadly recipe for warfare

Ingredients included in fertilisers, beer, paint or plastics could be used in a chemical weapons factory. Pearce Wright reports

The sixth house on 33rd Street, in the Karada section of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, has become infamous. It operated under the guise of the registered office of the Iraqi State Enterprise for Pesticide Production, where, in collusion with German and other European and American companies, multi-million-dollar contracts were negotiated for equipment and raw materials to make chemical weapons, including mustard gas and the nerve gases tabun and sarin, at a huge factory at Samarra, north of Baghdad.

President Saddam Hussein practised a deception that made one of the nightmares of disarmament specialists come true. He showed the ease with which work on chemical munitions could be masked as commercial activities and cheap, globally available industrial chemicals diverted for weapons production.

The predicament presents the greatest challenge to the latest negotiations at the Geneva disarmament conference. The meeting has six months to put some bite into two long-standing agreements — one outlawing chemical warfare, adopted in 1925, and the other, in 1972, banning biological warfare. The goal is to forge a new pact with provisions to enforce the bans.

After the 1.3 million gas casualties of the first world war, the treaty barring chemical weapons was adopted by 29 nations and signed subsequently by 100 others, including Iraq. The ban specified only the use of weapons, but most of the powerful nations in the chemical treaty negotiations, such as the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union, China and France, viewed the arrangements as a no-first-use agreement, giving victims the right to retaliate in kind.

Consequently, for 65 years, research has continued into the science and development of chemical weapons. Britain alone formally abandoned the production, stockpiling and transfer of chemical weapons between countries 20 years ago. Nevertheless, research into the latest developments continues and information is exchanged with the US.



Into the unknown: allied soldiers wearing gas masks and protective clothing against a possible chemical attack

In those two decades the number of nations suspected of having the ability to make chemical weapons has risen from five to 22, and, although Iraq is a signatory to the treaty, Saddam has had no reservations in using them.

Iraq launched mustard gas at opposing troops in the war with Iran and against civilians in Kurdistan. Saddam's notoriety increased when he became the first belligerent in the world to use nerve gas, in a bombardment of helpless civilian Kurdish populations at Halabja and Dojaila.

Unfortunately for negotiators in disarmament talks, the ready commercial availability of most of the ingredients of chemical weapons, which are also cheap and easy to produce, make controlling arms proliferation difficult. Thus, it is much harder to devise an effective chemical disarmament convention that can be verified than a nuclear arms convention, according to Nicholas Sims, a specialist in the treaty negotiations.

Mr Sims, of the London School of Economics and Political Science, told a recent meeting of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, that he believed a successful chemical convention was needed to achieve a nuclear one.

Most of the important compounds the chemical weapons negotiators are trying to control come under the heading of dual-use substances because they have both commercial and military applications. Hence, in principle, any pharmaceutical or fertiliser factory, any brewery, or any paint or plastics works is potentially a chemical weapons plant, according to General Howard Eggleston, head of the American army's space and special weapons directorate.

So the most beneficial industrial chemicals can become the most pernicious in a tyrant's hands. An example is thiodiglycol, an agent that is one step away from mustard gas and causes most of its deaths when it destroys the lungs.

Yet, as a perfectly ethical advertisement for thiodiglycol in an international trade magazine shows, it has thoroughly worthwhile applications in the printing and textile trades and a vast range of other industries that need high-quality electroplating.

The shopping list of bulk industrial chemicals with a potential for sinister use includes cyanide, which may be turned directly into a gas that kills by swamping the oxygen in the blood of the victim, or suffocating gases made from general industrial substances such as chlorine and phosgene.

Adossier, prepared for British doctors who treated victims from Iraqi Kurdistan and who would care for casualties from the Gulf, calculates that German chemical plant supplied to Iraq could produce up to 40 tons of mustard gas a month and four tons each of the nerve gases sarin and tabun.

Almost understating the nightmare, Carl-Magnus Hyltenius, the disarmament conference's outgoing president, says the Gulf war illustrates the urgency and need for an additional convention halting production, removing stockpiles and incorporating a compulsory inspection procedure to stop cheating.

The latest talks have been helped by an informal forum known as the Australia group, which meets in Paris twice a year, to harmonise national export controls over chemicals that could aid the proliferation of weapons. Delegates from 26 countries have agreed on a strict monitoring system of the production or use of 50 key chemicals with the potential for weapons development.

Meanwhile, the British government has tested a scheme of inspection on request, drawn up with the chemical industry's co-operation, to verify that there is no cheating at commercial plants, military sites and government establishments.

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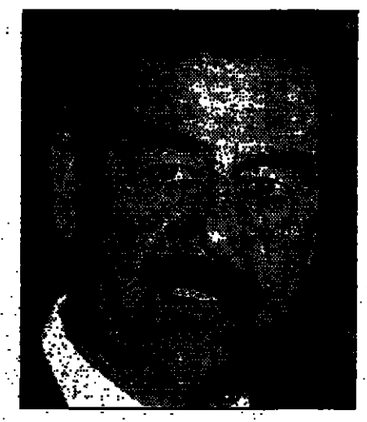
SANDOZ PHARMA LTD., Personnel Department, Ref. 1409, P.O. Box, CH-4002 Basle, Tel. 061 324 76 31 (Mrs V. Luginbühl)

SANDOZ

هكذا من الأصل

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Portrait of a president



No man is a hero to his valet, but Karim Abdullah Al-Djabbouri's view of his former master, Saddam Hussein, seems so extreme that a psychiatric explanation is called for. Mr Al-Djabbouri, who says he was Saddam's bodyguard, tells of the Iraqi president's indifference to the fate of those around him, the casual way in which he disposes of those who have displeased him and the lovers of whom he has grown bored.

Many have attempted to analyse Saddam's personality, and several have confused the terms psychotic and psycopathic. In the distant past, psychotic could be applied to any mental disease, but for a long while it has been reserved for a group of specific, definable, psychiatric diseases such as the affective disorders (mania and depression), schizophrenia, dementias induced by drugs or alcohol, and those related to particular periods in a person's lifetime, such as puerperal psychosis after childbearing or the involutional psychosis of old age. It is unfair to apply the same label to a kindly but depressed elderly patient as to Saddam — in his case the description the amateur psychiatrist should be using is psychopathic.

Psychopaths have an anti-social personality; they disregard the usual rules of society as they seek to achieve their own ends. They are impulsive and demand immediate self-gratification; if frustrated in their objectives, they will not respond to reason but are likely to become increasingly violent and aggressive; rather than capitulate they would prefer to sacrifice their own life — suicide is common among psychopaths — or that of others. Many psychopaths are sexually irresponsible, albeit successful, for provided that life is going their way they are often charming and plausible. These same characteristics can be used to manipulate the gullible, hence perhaps Hitler's love of the uncritical, whether unsophisticated children, impressionable women or fawning dogs.

Many leaders have some psychopathic tendencies and display a certain indifference to the well-being of others: they learn to manipulate society, some with charm, while others rely on fear. Perceptive statesmen have accepted psychopathic tendencies in colleagues, and believed that political power can be proportional to a man's sexuality. As statistics from Broadmoor and Rampton show, there is no easy way to treat psychopathy. Fortunately, as male psychopaths grow older and testosterone levels fall, they become less aggressive. In women, testosterone levels rise as they age.

No natural guarantee



The recent damages award against a farmer who sold infected milk with fatal results has elicited cries of horror from those who defend natural foods regardless of their dangers. Before the days of pasteurisation of milk and of strict standards laid down by health authorities, a sediment of pus could usually be found at the bottom of a milk churn. Raw milk is an excellent medium for spreading a wide variety of bacteria as well as diseases such as tuberculosis and brucellosis which are usually associated with it.

Nor does a natural life, with souls nourished by meditation and bodies by a vegetarian diet, always guarantee health. Australian doctors who studied 2,500 exiled Buddhist monks have found that despite their contemplative lifestyle and "healthy" diet, the monks were three times more likely to suffer peptic (gastric and duodenal) ulceration than the television-watching, supermarket-fed British. Patients — whether Tibetan monks or overstressed city financiers — have to reconcile themselves to the knowledge that peptic ulceration tends to be a chronic disease with frequent relapses.

Although it is comparatively easy to persuade an ulcer to heal with medical treatment, more than 80 per cent will relapse and the patient will need regular maintenance therapy. Gastric ulcers, unlike duodenal ulcers, may undergo malignant change and need close expert supervision. Surgery does not entirely remove this danger: malignant disease is more common than would be expected in the remnant of the stomach left behind after a partial gastrectomy.

Lifting all the cares of the world?

As a new antidepressant is launched today, some experts are already anxious, Ann Kent reports

Feeling anxious about worrying events is a normal, everyday reaction. So is feeling depressed about sad events. But anxiety and depression which interfere with the way we function are surprisingly common.

One man in eight and one woman in four will be impaired by a depressive illness at some time in their lives. Anxiety restricts the life of one adult in 20.

With such a large group of potential patients, treatments for these two conditions are big business, and drug companies are constantly searching for new agents which will relieve them without having unacceptable side-effects.

Today, a British company will claim the search is over. SmithKline Beecham will launch its new antidepressant drug, paroxetine, derived from a new class of highly selective compounds which appear to have wide-ranging effects on the brain.

Some critics believe, however, that doctors are being seduced by the hype and "quick hit" of drug treatments. They believe that, in many cases, patients are suffering from understandable misery, rather than clinical depression. The critics also point out that we have seen wonder drugs in psychiatry before. In the early Sixties another group of new substances, the benzodiazepines, was launched for use as tranquillisers and sleeping pills. They were not intended for patients suffering from depression. The manufacturers claimed, as they are doing with paroxetine, that the benzodiazepines would improve the quality of life. The drugs proved to be extremely effective, seemingly capable of soaking up a vast pool of misery.

"In fact, they act as anaesthetics, although they are given in sub-anaesthetic doses," says Dr Colin Brewer, a psychiatrist and an expert on addiction. "Although people may feel better when partially anaesthetised, they actually function worse."

The problem was that benzodiazepines were prescribed for too long. When patients tried to give them up, they suffered from a long list of withdrawal symptoms. Three thousand people who claim to have become addicted are now suing the manufacturers and, in some cases, their GPs.

Paroxetine works by enhancing the action of the brain chemical 5HT, which is also known as seratonin. Low levels of seratonin are believed to cause the symptoms of depression and may also be responsible for suicidal urges.

Doctors will be able to prescribe paroxetine for depression which is accompanied by anxiety as well as for depression alone, unlike similar 5HT drugs which have recently come on the market. It does not lead to the extreme withdrawal problems of the benzodiazepines and is likely to be widely prescribed by GPs. Nevertheless Dr Brewer is concerned that, like Mother's Little Helper, the new antidepressant may be wrongly prescribed.

"Unfortunately, antidepressants are often prescribed by GPs to people who are miserable because their circumstances are miserable. No drug can be expected to deal with that," Dr Brewer says.

Sarah Teevan, an information advice worker with Mind (the national association for mental health) is concerned that many psychiatrists are going in for "a form of biological reductionism. It is true that there is a physiological basis for some of these conditions, but it is not the only factor at work. We think that only a few pills at a time should be prescribed to depressed patients, along with a lot of human contact. Talking treatments, involving counselling and psychotherapy, can be very useful."

Dr Stuart Montgomery, a reader in psychiatry at St Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, is more concerned that large numbers of undiagnosed depressed patients are being left untreated when, he says, their lives could be transformed by the right drugs. "The efficacy of drugs like paroxetine has been subjected to the most rigorous trials, while the evidence for the effectiveness of the non-drug therapies is very poor."

"Research has shown that about half the patients whose depressive illness would respond to antidepressants are being missed. This is most likely because the patients themselves feel awkward about admitting to their depression; there is still a stigma against it among the general population. These are people who are dismissed as being unhappy, but if you enquired into their symptoms you would find they justify a diagnosis of depression."

Research carried out by Dr Montgomery and others suggests that the 5HT drugs, some of which enhance and some of which block the action of seratonin, have many more applications. The drugs are already being used to prevent migraine attacks, reduce overeating in the obese, and relieve nausea in patients taking powerful cancer drugs, and to deal with compulsive behaviour, such as incessant handwashing.

Dr Montgomery says that in tests on paroxetine careful checks were made to ensure that patients were not becoming physically dependent. "In fact, one of the interesting things thrown up by the research was that this class of drugs appears to reduce, rather than increase, dependent behaviour. There is increasing evidence to suggest that the 5HT drugs affect the reward mechanism in the brain, and could be used to control addictions such as smoking, alcoholism and dependence on hard drugs."

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Black and white relations

Nicola Murphy on a tragic tale of love and life between the races

BECAUSE IT IS BITTER, AND BECAUSE IT IS MY HEART
By Joyce Carol Oates
Macmillan, £14.95

Has this distinguished Princeton professor skipped school and entered the down-market weepy stakes? One could be forgiven for so thinking, as the synopsis of Joyce Carol Oates's new novel reads like that of a Cartlandesque classic: "Two families divided by colour but bonded together by the complicity of guilt and desire . . . A bond at first unstated then slowly, year by year, gathering force until it must inevitably declare itself." Yuk! You cannot of course believe everything you read. Nor should you judge a book even by its inside cover. In fact the author of *American Appetites* has written a tremendous and valuable novel. It is not only more beguilingly pacey than anything you might borrow by Dame Barbara, but a profound and philosophical contemplation of the racial and social tensions of 1950s-1960s America the Free.

It opens in the year before John Fitzgerald Kennedy made it to the political frontline, and before Martin Luther King hit the national headlines. It ends in 1964 after a presidential assassination, in the middle of a foreign war, and before the marriage, in Syracuse, New York, of 22-year-old Iris Courtney. She is the central figure of the novel. It is through her eyes, mind and memory that events, meanings and perspectives are seen and sifted. This is a novel of conflicts, tensions, partial resolutions, parodoxes and contradictions. Iris's emotionally charged inner life boils beneath an impossibly icy exterior. Sparkling streams of her consciousness flow through a detached narration as by an ancient tragic chorus; high voltage drama is transmitted through writing that is low key, spare and stylised. The fusion is electric.

If this powerful, underwritten novel is "about" anything, it is about race. Iris herself has an aching preoccupation with the colour of her skin. In 1956, in Hammond, New York, a white 14-year-old with frizzy brown hair and lines on her forehead, she watches a black boy murder the white boy who has threatened her. It is with the discovery of the decaying body that the book opens. The image remains with us, as the experience remains with Iris and informs the rest of the novel.

Her relationship with the murderer is central to her life and central to the story. Their two families are not enemies of a Montague/Capulet nature, but in this small city in upstate New York, a dingy, grimy world cracking with racial and social pressures, the poor whites and the coloureds don't mix.

Young, sexy, strawberry blonde Persia Courtney and her suave, dark (haired) husband, Duke, are ex-prizewinning dancers who believe they are tangoing up in the world. The Fairchilds are also going places. Minnie is a highly motivated matriarch, determined her boys will make it, and make it respectably. As the boys are black, their main routes to success are sport or crime: shooting baskets or running drugs.

There is nothing sentimental or rose-tinted about Oates's portrayal of the developing relationship between Vernon "Jinx" Fairchild and Iris Courtney. The children are black and white; the way they are drawn, while never grey, is not. The picture is gritty. The focus precise. The relationship the characters "enjoy" is a source more of pain than of pleasure.

GRAHAM WOOD



Joyce Carol Oates with her contemporary Montague and Capulet tragedy set in small-town America

Increasingly isolated as her two-stepping, two-timing parents hit the big-time as a champion alcoholic and a major gambler, Iris's bond with Jinx colours all her other relationships, first with schoolfellows and her mother's "mulatto" lover and, later in the novel, in Syracuse, with the white students who believe they are in love with her; with the Jamaican flatmate who misinterprets her mesmerised interest; and with the black boys who pick her up and assault her.

The last section of the book is concerned with the effect of the bond on Iris's relationship with Alan Savage, a white art historian, whose scholarly, patrician parents think of Iris as an adopted, disadvantaged daughter. She is gathered into a finely delineated and beautifully drawn world of waspish academia, immaculate drawing rooms, and gleaming black servants. Savage wants this cool girl with the pure white Botticelli face to be his wife.

Iris remains obsessed by the serious young husband and father, the tense young man whose long black fingers once gripped championship basketballs, and yet earlier, smashed a white trash brain to a messy red pulp. Through college she may have been able to escape, if not from the memories, from the squalid humdrum everyday small-town, slum-town world, into which she was born. She knows his only exit is via Vietnam.

At once a poignantly realistic and self-conscious work of art, *Because It Is Bitter, And Because It Is My Heart* is a tragic tale that scorns the easy indulgences of the tragic genre. It hurts all the more for so doing.

Latin American nights of love

Jasper Rees

THE STORIES OF EVA LUNA
By Isabel Allende
Translated by Margaret Sayers Peden
Hamish Hamilton, £13.99

THE MIDNIGHT LOVE FEAST
By Michel Tournier
Translated by Barbara Wright
Collins, £13.95

A PLACE I'VE NEVER BEEN
By David Leavitt
Viking, £12.99

AFTER ARKADIA
By Nella Bielski
Translated by Jonathan Steffen and John Berger
Viking, £13.99

In both the lax and the strict senses of the word, this is a fabulous week for fiction. In either definition, it should not be surprising that all of it is imported from overseas and, with the exception of David Leavitt's deft tales of emotional deception and disappointment, translated from foreign tongues into lively contemporary English.

Isabel Allende, from Peru, and Michel Tournier, from France, both submit short-story collections which advocate the healing powers of narrative. Although Allende mentions in her epigraph the example of Scheherazade, who staves off death by telling tales, **The Stories of Eva Luna** are offered as a post-coital entertainment from one lover to another, an amorous affirmation rather than a staving-off of death. The fables in Tournier's **The Midnight Love Feast** are told by guests invited to a divorce binge thrown by an ill-matched couple. These satisfy the divorcees so much that they reverse their decision to separate.

Strange, then, that literature's capacity to lick wounds is expressed in so many tales which deal with death. Several of Allende's heroines decide to die, seek vengeance in slaughter or suicide, or contemplate death only finally to turn back from it. Elsewhere, fatal ailments and wounds are cured by ritual and religious treatments when medical science has failed, and this is the key. In the spiritual environment which enthusiasts will recognise from her previous work, Allende sometimes (though not always) dismisses life as a renounceable commodity. Though some of her people cannot evade the body-blows of fate, in one of her most characteristically delightful stories a foreign concubine of the president is installed in his summer palace, which is already occupied by the playful ghosts of murdered Indians. The building, and its lone inhabitant, imperceptibly recede into the jungle, the world of the spirit where Allende's characters escape from politics and poverty.

Common to all Eva Luna's stories is a stark translucence that makes them vital and compelling. The narrators in Tournier's anthology share only a mutual dissimilarity: the president communicates his worry that France is a nation of hypochondriacs because most of the population are born in hospitals; a medieval Scottish laird vows to slay the monstrous father who conceived him by raping his mother; a Parisian novelist investigates a bizarre death in a Provençal firework factory; a ten-year-old student changes the life of his teacher by sleeping with her. What every story reveals is the astonishing resourcefulness of Tournier's imagination. They constitute the purest literature, arrestingly simple ideas planted and nursed in the fertile sod of a storyteller's brain. Though it is Allende who evokes *The Arabian Nights*, it is Tournier's less gritty tales that have the greater ability to hypnotise. Like Allende, Tournier seems to have learnt his craft at some earlier date in the millennium, in the innocent days when narrative was not laden with irony and complicated by authorial identity crises, when the trickery was not in the telling but the tale.

This is not to belittle a much more modern writer, David Leavitt, whose new collection of stories is mildly unfortunate to run up against such redoubtable competition in this column. **A Place I've Never Been** is an unshowy but impressive set of miniatures which broaden out into canvases of deep and wide dimension. In Leavitt's world, a social and/or sexual encounter of the briefest duration has a significance which stretches back and forwards in time — an old couple asking after a house for sale, to which the realtor is sentimentally attached; a young American lunching in Chiantishire with the pretentious expat pals of her fiancé; a lesbian attending the wedding of her ex-lover. The theme throughout, whether in the lives of hetero- or homosexual characters, is the unreliability, the self-obsession, of the emotionally crocked. A man who assumes he has Aids uses a woman who silently worships him as a sounding board for his moaning. Other men cannot decide between one lover or another. A grande Italian dame vainglioriously reflects on a life spent wreaking emotional havoc. In all instances, Leavitt is a smooth deliverer of narrative, composes dialogue comfortably, and, though no fabulist, is worth recommending.

Nella Bielski, a Ukrainian who left the Soviet Union for Paris a good 20 years ago, presumably wrote the two novellas that comprise **After Arkadia** in French to facilitate publication. Filtered through into another language, many of the Russian literary echoes the stories were originally intended to contain have been mislaid or at least dulled. Still, the two-part biography of Jeanne, who lives the first part of her life as a film star in pre-revolutionary Odessa and the second as a dance teacher in exile in France, does offer fleeting hints of Nabokovian reverie and Pasternakian symbolism. However, the narrative tends to sprint and lumber in turns, in a disorientating manner that detracts from the cohesiveness of the two-halved whole.

Tyrannosaurus rules, OK?

SCIENCE FICTION
Tom Hutchinson

JURASSIC PARK
By Michael Crichton
Century, £13.99

It is highly probable that, after the inevitable film spreads this shocker's data further, its words "They're breeding!" will assume the spine-icing immortality of those other dread warnings "It's Alive!" or "Late-night Radio 3 presents Music In Our Time". For "The dinosaurs are coming!" is the theme of Michael Crichton's newest foray into literary terrorism; the prehistoric creatures' modern reproduction could be the worst thing to befall mankind. (Womankind can look after itself, I'm already in the bunker.)

Crichton's *Coma* shrilled on about body transplants. Now, like a burglar alarm that everyone hears but nobody heeds, he is off again. This time it is the dangers of biotechnology and designer-genes, which a senile madman manipulates on an island theme-park all set for T-Rex appeal.

A trial run for some rather anonymous experts — the character-building never gets beyond the first brick — goes badly wrong, and giant carnivores roam free. Lightning flashes; flesh is munched; and two imperilled children make sure the Spielberg-Disney element is identified.

This is good, rampaging fun as we are made to think that we understand all the scientific information that is put across, from chaos theory to an update on fossil philosophy. It's all like *The Lost World* or *King Kong* on speed: one long panic-attack. Mr Crichton may protest too much, and punch too hard, for the sake of best-sellerdom. But some alarms sound because there really are burglars. And you never know with all those mad scientists . . .

● **The Gap Into Conflict: The Real Story**, by Stephen Donaldson (*Collins, £12.99*). Saga-fantasist turns in a sleek, well-oiled SF novel, a love-cum-lust story, bridging the gap of alien opposites, that has more than a passing resemblance to Wagner's *Ring*. The tough guy prose is a holster into which the general theme has trouble fitting.

● **Hermetech**, by Storm Constantine (*Headline, £14.95*). Force yourself through the hedge of names such as Quincx, Zambia and Tummuz, and you are in hallucinating enchantment, a vision of the future in which Ari Famber pursues a quest to the realisation of herself, despite trans-sexed creatures and the fascinating jellycrusts. Yes, it's *that* sort of story, a basic whimsy.

● **City of Truth**, by James Morrow, (*Century, £9.99*). Erotic, comic novella about art critic Sperry who fights through the compulsory brainburn that makes him conform, to rebel against the forces of law and order. The writing has a touch of the Bradburys, but the cinema-jokes are the writer's: deconstructionism is a savage joke played on all critics — even those in SF.

● **Wulfsyara**, by Phillip Mann (*Gollancz, £13.95*). Tour de force, supposedly narrated by an antoscribe, Wulf, about what happens to the spacecraft *Nightingale* and its captain Wilberfoss, when it and he disappear while answering a distress signal. The revelation that "the killing had relish", as applied to an alien life-form, haunts the mind long after the book is finished. Here be tygers of the mind. Great.

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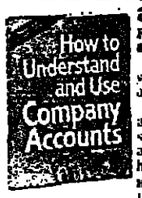


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Guilt and release of an old Mossad agent

John Slepokura

TO KNOW A WOMAN
By Amos Oz
Translated by Nicholas de Lange
Chatto & Windus, £13.99

DISENCHANTMENT with self is a constant theme in the novels of the Israeli writer, Amos Oz, and he is at his most inventive and disturbing when exploring this state of mind. Self-dissatisfaction is always discussed along with a series of attempts to define it from every possible angle, to produce a clear and objective account of where the feelings of guilt and lack of self-esteem originate.

To Know a Woman is more restrained in approach than Oz's last novel, *Black Box*. Instead of the emphasis on oppositions, orthodox and secular, fidelity and adultery, it concentrates on the experience of bereavement and disability. Yoel is a retired Mossad agent, whose wife is killed accidentally, and whose daughter suffers from epilepsy. A senior colleague is murdered on a mission in Bangkok which Yoel refused to undertake.

The self-incrimination and confusion caused by bereavement is evoked poignantly. Yoel's affair with his neighbour is conducted as her brother looks on, observing all, and giving unnatural, cloyish encouragement to them. This is voiced in language without conviction, suggesting the emptiness and lack of intimacy compared with his past marriage.



Amos Oz, the disenchanted chronicler of Israeli angst

The constant experimenting with different versions of what happened to his wife, daughter and colleague is not delivered with the refinement it deserves, making his long soliloquies seem insensitive and uninformed. Hebrew is very much a language of economy, reducing the intrusion of superfluous styles that can obscure meaning. Oz ambitiously attempts to exploit this by creating expressionistic interludes, intended to make the underlying developments palpable in brief, terse terms. The effect is too often congestion and confusion rather than illumination. The inability to support substance with appropriate method causes the more delicate tones of introspection to be lost, and the debate with the self-conscious, highly perceptive daughter lacks the incisiveness which is supposed to shake Yoel out of his complacency and self-satisfaction.

To Know a Woman is best seen as a platonic idea like Iris Murdoch's *The Sovereignty of Good*, applied awkwardly to fiction which suggests the usefulness of a self-aware humility as a 20th-century guide for the perplexed. "Only once or twice are you granted a special moment that everything else depends on," Yoel reflects after accepting the essential fissures in his family and professional life. In preparing for these rare, unexpected moments of illumination, he has learnt the value of trust, making possible his rite of passage from pain to healing and elation.

Fall of Make Sicko

PAPERBACKS
Brian Morton

CHRISTOPHER UNBORN
By Carlos Fuentes
Picador, £5.99

THE STORIES OF JOHN CHEEVER
Vintage, £9.99

LOVE LIFE
By Bobbie Ann Mason
Vintage, £4.99

THE Latin American fiction of the Sixties and Seventies built its critical and popular reputation on the glib premise that modern reality is itself so fantastic as to require only a minimum of literary intervention. As a descriptive category, though, "magical realism" only usefully applies to the work of Gabriel Garcia Márquez. With the majority of Latin American writers there is, to misuse a phrase coined by the most recent Nobel prize winner Octavio Paz, an "alternating current" between fantasy and reality. Paz's countryman Carlos Fuentes combines a complex literary style with a passionate concern for Mexico's fate in the modern world, "too far from God, too close to the United States".

In *The Old Gringo*, since successfully filmed, Fuentes exploded some of the ambiguities of that closeness, and, in the (historical) person of the American novelist-journalist Ambrose Bierce, touched on the relationship between "Northern" fact and "Southern" fantasy. **Christopher Unborn** is darker and more speculative than *The Old Gringo* but also more self-consciously wrought. In 1992, with Mexico — or "Makesicko" — City at a point of ecological collapse, there is a prize on offer to the parents of the first child born exactly half a millennium after Columbus's landfall in America. If the plot too closely resembles *Midnight's Children*, the style also recalls *A Clockwork Orange*, with street gangs speaking a macaronic Spang-lish.

Fuentes's theme is the collapse of the linguistic and cultural norms that have held firm since the Renaissance, and which have underpinned the old empires of the West. It would be hard to attribute such grand ambitions to either Bobbie Ann Mason or John Cheever, but it is clear that they are concerned with similar breakdowns in the smaller corpus of the short story.

Cheever belonged to the much-maligned *New Yorker* school of well-made fiction. His characters in **The Stories of John Cheever**, almost inevitably, are people who have struck a "satisfactory average of income, endeavour and respectability", whose conversation is "filled with diminutives, timidity and vagueness", but who encounter a world of unexpected violence.

Jim and Irene Westcott's latest consumer durable — "The Enormous Radio" — literally tunes into the lives of all the other families in their apartment block, revealing "demonstrations of indigestion, carnal love, abysmal vanity, faith and despair". Though it carries his meaning exactly, such devices are unusual in Cheever, whose most usual strategy is a calm build-up and an abrupt climax.

In "The Hartleys" the eponymous couple return through a dense blizzard to a resort where they were once (on honeymoon?) happy eight years before. It is clear at once that their seven-year-old child has come between them; staff overhear their anguished bickering through an open transom (eavesdropping is another characteristic device). In their snowblind pursuit of past happiness, they neglect the child, who is trapped by an antiquated ski-tow and crushed by the fly-wheel.

Almost all the violence in Bobby Ann Mason's stories in **Love Life** has already taken place and persists as a shadow. War — Vietnam most of all — weighed heavy in earlier work such as *In Country* and the stories in *Shiloh*. As a writer of short fiction she is closer to Cheever in her abundant detailing and subtle inflection of mood, than to the stripped down reticence of Raymond Carver, and the younger American "dirty realists", with whom she is still unaccountably linked. Though her characters are passive, in the way that Cheever's are, her stories and settings are deliberately diminutive, with nothing either timid or vague in the articulation. Images of death pervade the most compelling of them. In "Hunktown" it is no more than a pot of impatiens caught in a sudden frost, but "Big Bertha Stories" ends with a nightmarish jolt, a sudden shocking transition: "In her dream she is jumping on soft moss, and then it turns into a springy pile of dead bodies." Mason's is a subtle talent.

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CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Self-regarding tale of bravery

Dances With Wolves, December Bride, Short Time, 3 Men and a Little Lady, Staying Together and *DuckTales: The Movie* are reviewed by **Geoff Brown**

Kevin Costner's Dances With Wolves (12, Warner West End, Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue) is a film that means to be noticed. It takes three hours; it resurrects the Western landscapes, if not the myths, with doting love. The narrative proceeds with an epic sweep; to provide extra dignity, Sioux Indians speak their native tongue, necessitating subtitles. Meanwhile, as the Union soldier drawn into Sioux culture at his far-flung frontier post, Costner, the star-director, preens before the camera, defying us not to love him. You can almost hear the film screaming: "I am worthy! I am brave! I deserve at least four Oscars!"

The boastful solemnity of *Dances With Wolves* is not all hollow. Costner mounts his directorial debut with authority, filling the screen with images to moisten the eyes of Western buffs pining for the old days. A line of Indians massed against the horizon; buffalo thundering; a man and his horse on a windswept plain; crags set off against a blistering blue sky: Costner ransacks the Hollywood Western storeroom with taste and eloquence. He can surprise, too: one grandiose cut jolts us from a skeleton close-up on the westward trail to the firmament's stars.

Yet the epic sweep becomes something of a burden when the story swept over proves so small and simplistic. A nutshell could hold it. His frontier post a deserted ruin, sensitive Lieutenant Dunbar finds company with the noble Sioux. After tentative beginnings, they become fast friends; Dunbar takes a Sioux bride, a Sioux name, and joins in the daily round – fighting off Pawnees, following buffalo, nurturing a society in harmony with nature. We wait a painful age for the army's return to get their man; when they do, they behave like blood-thirsty dogs.

In place of complex characters, Costner and his screenwriter, Michael Blake, parade puppets clothed in a blanket of authenticity. The Lakota language trips off the tongue of the cast's Native Americans; the costumes, too, bear the mark of rigorous research. Yet the blanket contains gaping holes. John Barry's music, lacking all but the most synthetic American flavour, constantly lets the images down; while Costner's expressions often echo contemporary man rather than the solitary soldier of the 1860s. This Civil War lieutenant is a fervent Green, speaking up for Indian culture and the shrinking frontier. He salutes the Sioux with a friendly "Hi!"; at least they are never advised to have a nice day. No huge flaws, these, though they do contribute to the film's whiff of the bogus.

Costner's performance is amiable: sometimes too much so, for as in many first films by actor-directors, Costner over-admires his own performance. The camera lingers long upon Dunbar being decent, courageous, stoical and droll. Other characters get little chance, though Mary McDonnell impresses as a white girl raised by Indians, and Native American Graham Greene (no relation) presides over the Sioux with dignity. Next time as a director – he clearly has a future – Costner should forget prestige trimmings and go for substance.

Rain. Mud. Potatoes. Kelp. A runaway sheep. A churn of butter. This is the world of December Bride (PG, Curzon Phoenix), a dour excursion into rural Ireland at the turn of the century. Thaddeus O'Sullivan's feature, financed largely from television sources, first appeared at last year's Cannes festival, where it won some friends. O'Sullivan, an accomplished cameraman who previously directed the short film *The Woman Who Married Clark Gable*, certainly ensures craftsmanship galore. But there is something missing: passion, humour, the thrust of drama.

This Civil War lieutenant is a fervent Green. He salutes the Sioux with a friendly "Hi!"; at least they are never advised to have a nice day

The story, derived from Sam Hanna Bell's novel, is simple. Sarah, a farmhouse servant brought up according to strict Presbyterian principles, breaks off old habits and forms sexual relations with both her strapping masters. She gives birth, but risks the community's condemnation by refusing to marry either party. The climax finally comes in a peremptory coda, 18 years after the main action.

The script is by playwright David Rudkin, chosen because he seemed likely to avoid what the director called "a television-type drama with pretty landscapes, slushy music, and other twiddly bits". Rudkin may steer clear of silly rural chitchat, though his pregnant words and pauses open up fissures which the camera cannot fill. It is largely left to Saskia Reeves, a film newcomer with haunting eyes, to give the story what punch it possesses: her vibrant performance as the strong-willed Sarah lingers long after the rain, mud and kelp have vanished.

Short Time (12, Odeon Haymarket) returns us with a bump to one of Hollywood's basics: the car chase. Pursuing his prey like a man possessed, Dabney Coleman – a timid Seattle cop, days away from retirement – reduces his vehicle to a gnarled, upturned heap. Midway through the fury, he removes his seat-belt: the cop, mistakenly expecting imminent death from the rare blood disease, Wechsler's Curtain, is struggling to get killed on the job, so that his estranged family can enjoy the life insurance.

Outside its car chase, *Short Time* treads on tricky ground, shifting queasily between black farce and tender sentiment. Intimate scenes between Coleman and Teri Garr, his ex-wife, are too glibly written for the tears to flow; the film scores better hits with Coleman and Matt Frewer (the cop's oddball partner). The director is Gregg Champion, a former stunt specialist and the eldest son of Marge and Gower Champion, dancing dainties of Fifties' musicals.

We expect sequels to be worse than the originals, though 3 Men and a Little Lady (PG, Odeon Leicester Square) plunges far below acceptable limits. This is a comedy with scarcely one joke to its name. Things are bad enough in the early stages, when the script alternates between coy sermons on family life and desperate bids for the audience's affections, like the bachelor trio's rap lullaby to their perky five-year-old girl. But once the little lady's actress mother takes her to England to pursue married life with a caddish director at the National Theatre, the film nosedives into abject disaster.

Eccentric rural vicars and family retainers and country lanes choked with flocks of sheep stopped being funny more than 30 years ago. Yet writer Charlie Peters and director Emile Ardolino (who brought you *Dirty Dancing*) pile up every archaic comedy wheeze in the book. Nancy Travis, the tot's mother (a minor character in the first film), smiles incessantly. Ted Danson capers; Steve Guttenberg grins; Tom Selleck drives a Mini. They need not have bothered.

Staying Together (15, Cannon Panton Street), directed by Lee Grant in 1989, offers a furious gallop through the stock situations of small-town American melodrama: boisterous boys growing to manhood, dad's demise, mother's rebirth. As in his script for *Memphis Belle*, Monte Merrick creates more characters than he knows what to do with; only 17-year-old Sean Astin cuts through the jumble as the family rascal with a pixie's grin.



Preening? Kevin Costner directed himself in *Dances With Wolves*

Finally, DuckTales: The Movie, subtitled *Treasure of the Lost Lamp* (U, general release), based on a Disney television show. The script, flecked with adult wisecracks, parodies the Indiana Jones school; the animation (mostly from France) drips with detail. If only the characters cut bolder figures: the pallid group of Scrooge McDuck, four quacking nephews, and a Genie of the Lamp never make much headway against director Bob Hathcock's whirlwind of gags. Donald Duck is nowhere to be seen: he probably demanded too much money.

BRIEFING

Ominously high

When Wilhelmenia Fernandez comes to the Old Vic to star in *Carmen Jones* in April, she will not only be bringing a talent honed in the opera houses of America, *Benedict Nightingale reports*. She will be introducing New York ticket prices, too. For the first time in London, a [illegible] seat at a musical will cost £29.50.

True, there are reasons why Oscar Hammerstein II's updating of Bizet should be expensive: the show comes with interchangeable pairs of principals. True, £29.50 might not seem offputting to somebody mortgaging his grandmother to buy a Covent Garden ticket. But the price is part of an inexorable trend upwards. *Cats*, *Into the Woods*, *Les Misérables* and *Aspects of Love* all have a top price of £25.

No longer can British travel agents boast that theatre tickets cost half their New York counterparts. There, a prime seat for *Les Misérables* costs $60 (£30). Americans say that the main reason for Broadway's decline is that a couple wishing to hire a babysitter, park, eat, and see a show may end up paying $300 (£150). The same may be becoming true for London.

Straight plays are cheaper, but not much less so than in New York. The top West End price is now £17 or £18, compared with £21 on Broadway. The National charges up to £16 for a seat in the Olivier or Lyttelton, the RSC £18.50 at the Barbican and much more at its Stratford headquarters. Depending on the date of his visit, a spectator will pay up to £28 to see *Henry IV* this summer, and an improbable £35 for what are called "superseats".

There is normally a greater spread of prices, and better concessions, in Britain. It is possible (when the RSC is in residence) to pay as little as £6 and see a play from the Barbican's outer edges. As in New York's Times Square, there is a booth in Leicester Square, selling half-price tickets on the day of performance. And there is always the London Fringe, though even that can be expensive. If the Bush and the Gate charge £6, a good Almeida seat is £14.50.

Naturally, the theatre has not been exempt from inflation or increasing wage demands. A two-hander in the West End may cost £250,000 to stage, and musicals from £1.25 to £4 million or more. But it is still alarming that seats should become so dear at a time when recession is hitting the British and fear of terrorism deterring Americans from crossing the Atlantic. Will not its own prices prove as damaging to the theatre this summer as war in the Gulf?



Wilhelmenia Fernandez: coming in to the Old Vic

Grander entrance

THE Festival Hall's main foyer is to get a £550,000 facelift – courtesy of its new caterers. The South Bank Centre told bidders for the catering contract that it hoped subsidy would pay for the refurbishment. National Leisure Catering won the contract, but the Centre was only awarded a 5.5 per cent subsidy increase. Now that the caterer is paying, the decorators should be finished by the summer.

Amazing activity

SUDDENLY, everybody is noticing Steven Pimlott, who will direct a new production of that now venerable biblical musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Rice and Lloyd Webber are writing new songs for the revival (their first collaboration for some years), and Jason Donovan, Australian idol of the toddling classes, has been secured for the title-role. Pimlott is also to direct at both the RSC (*Julius Caesar*) and National (Molière's *The Miser*) and is planning the American transfer of his 1989 Earls Court *Carmen*.

Last chance . . .

WITH her three-octave range and impersonations of jazz divas, the New York singer Ann Hampton Callaway has been enjoying a successful run at London's Pizza on the Park (071-235 5273). Her extended residency comes to an end on Saturday. Hampton Callaway is playing early sets only, with mouth-organist Larry Adler appearing later.

DANCE

Dream return to centre-stage

The Royal Ballet's chief choreographer is at last receiving the recognition that his talent merits, argues **Debra Craine**

Not so long ago, Sir Kenneth MacMillan was *persona non grata* at the Royal Opera House, his works overlooked by the management as companies abroad rushed to collect them. Today, it seems the Royal Ballet cannot get enough of Britain's foremost classical choreographer. Already this season, two of his full-length ballets – *Manon* and *The Prince of the Pagodas* – have been featured; tonight a new triple bill will bring together his first and latest works in a showcase, enabling Covent Garden audiences to scan the full length of his career.

The regeneration of MacMillan began more than a year ago, prompted by his sixtieth birthday in December 1989. As if suddenly aware that it had a family treasure in the attic, the Royal Ballet reversed years of neglect by dusting off some of the MacMillan canon (*Gloria, My Brother, My Sisters, Requiem* and *Song of the Earth*) in its repertoire and fêting its principal choreographer in a season-long celebration which featured the premiere of *The Prince of the Pagodas*.

With this season confirming the reversal in his fortunes, MacMillan is delighted to be back in favour. "Heavens, I thought last year was my year because they did so many of my ballets. Still, maybe it's my two years. I think it's wonderful. The opera house has been very generous. It's funny, you get to be 60 and somehow some of the barriers get let down. Everyone is more kindly disposed to one when one is 60."

Tonight's premiere of the MacMillan double-bill (part of a mixed programme including *Raymonda Act III*) pairs the abstract with the narrative; his 1955 professional bow with Sadler's Wells Theatre Ballet, *Danses concertantes*, a pure dance work of angular, asymmetric movements inspired by the rhythms of Stravinsky's astringent score, and his 1991 *Winter Dreams*, a one-act dramatic ballet based on Chekhov's play, *Three Sisters*.

LESLIE SPATT



Typically steamy MacMillan: Viviana Durante and Bruce Sansom in the current production of *Manon*

According to Monica Mason, the Royal Ballet's assistant director, "everything about *Danses* is sharp and staccato, whereas *Winter Dreams* is lyrical and romantic, in a sense much more classical . . . The two works could not be more different and yet there are touches of Kenneth – his hallmarks – all the way through." Both ballets use the difficult footwork, the articulated torso, the quick changes of direction and the off-balance arabesques on pointe that comprise his choreographic signature.

For this revival of *Danses*, last performed at the opera house 20 years ago, MacMillan's first ballet is getting a facelift, with the original Nicholas Georgiadis designs – a colourful display incorporating sphinxes and arrowheads – replaced by new ones from Ian Spurling. "The new designs are set in a more specific space than the original was," says MacMillan. "This time it has been located in a sort of bathhouse, with modern-day dancers dressed in stylised underwear."

Winter Dreams, MacMillan's newest ballet, grew out of a *pas de deux* for parting lovers, created last summer for Darcey Bussell and ex-Bolshoi star Irek Mukhamedov. Encouraged by its immediate success, the choreographer decided to use it as the focus of a larger work based on Chekhov's story and Tchaikovsky's piano music. "It's not a translation of *Three Sisters* into movement," says MacMillan. "I'm not attempting to do the whole play, I'm really trying to evoke its atmosphere. Because it's called *Winter Dreams* I hope it will have a dream-like quality."

"I think Kenneth has done a really clever thing by managing to put the whole story across in just 40 minutes and yet make people understand exactly what is going on," says principal dancer Viviana Durante, who has created the role of youngest sister Irina in *Winter Dreams*, as well as taking the leading female role in *Danses*.

For dramatic ballerinas such as Durante, MacMillan is a godsend, stripping classical ballet of its rigorous formalism and giving naturalism a free rein. "I love the way he portrays certain feelings with music," says Durante. "There is a lot of drama and emotion behind it. His ballets are easy to dance because they feel very natural even though all of them are technically very difficult."

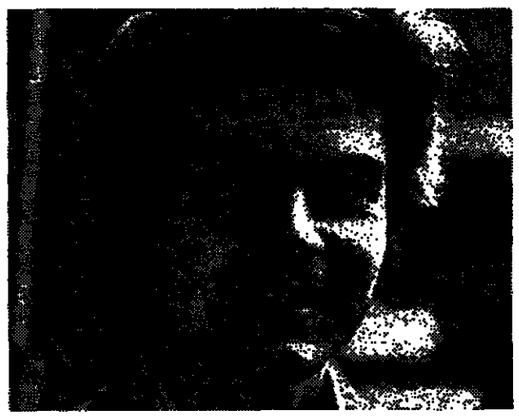
While the enduring popularity of MacMillan's sexually charged ballets such as *Manon* and *Romeo and Juliet* will ensure his place in the repertoire, the critical debate over his artistic genius will continue to rage. His unorthodoxy and eagerness to experiment have led to risks, and some of them – such as *Isadora* – have been undoubted failures.

But, says Monica Mason, "Kenneth is the greatest choreographer in the world today. I don't think I've ever seen him make a ballet where he hasn't got to the heart of something and had something new and different to say. Even if the ballet in the end wasn't a total success, the brilliant dance invention was always there."

● Danses concertantes *and* Winter Dreams *open tonight at the Royal Opera House, Bow Street, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066) at 7.30pm*

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More polish than passion

ROCK

Eric Clapton
Albert Hall

ERIC Clapton inaugurated the idea of a new year's residency at this most august of London venues in January 1987 when he played a relatively modest run of six shows. He extended the stretch to nine nights in 1988, 12 nights in 1989 and 18 nights in 1990, which was when he started to make airy pronouncements to the effect that he liked to consider these annual events to be rock's equivalent to the Proms.

Conceited certainly, but it was no idle boast, and this year's 24-night programme is his most ambitious yet. As the weeks go by there will be nightly pilgrimages to see one of rock's most senior citizens leading an all-star blues revue, an orchestral extravaganza, and backing bands of various sizes and permutations.

But on Tuesday night he opened the season modestly enough with a group comprised of just Nathan East (bass), Greg Phillinganes (keyboards) and Phil Collins (drums). As they eased into a selection of material from Clapton's 1989 album *Journeyman* – "Pretending", "No Alibis", "Running on Faith" – the four musicians fell into a measured gait that was comfortingly familiar.

Indeed with no new material whatsoever, the whole performance turned out to be a virtual rerun of last year's show, which was what most of those who had bought tickets – from the captains of industry in the boxes, to their children in the stalls – had clearly been hoping to hear.

Even the sartorial details remained unaltered, with Clapton sporting the same black baggy suit, the same luxuriant floppy bouffant, the same precisely cultivated designer stubble, and the same black Stratocaster that he has done, more or less, since Live Aid.

"I Shot the Sheriff" found Collins on sprightly form before the band plunged into the majestic opening chords of "White Room", the first of several Cream favourites which peppered the set. Clapton gave the vocal a much more soulful twist than that of the original and loosed off a banshee wail of a solo that was one of the high points of the evening.

Although generally a polished performance from a crack team of professionals, the moments to treasure were few and far between. Clapton is not a performer much given to histrionics anyway, and here he had the air of a man pacing himself for the long haul ahead. "Before You Accuse Me" was a vehicle for some fairly standard blues licks, while "Badge", "Cocaine" and "Layla" were trotted out like the old standbys they are, albeit to Pavlovian displays of ecstasy among the crowd.

There were flashes of passion, notably during the slow-burning, soul-tinged "Old Love", where Clapton slipped several out-of-context blues quotes into an untypically squawky solo. But it was a show that was far too predictable to stretch players of this calibre. For that we must await developments as the residency continues.

DAVID SINCLAIR

MICHAEL POWELL



Predictable poise: Clapton at the Albert Hall on Tuesday

THEATRE

The Pilgrim
Lilian Baylis

THE Portuguese themselves would probably admit that their nation has as much claim to be considered a centre of European drama as Britain to be the hub of the grape-trampling industry. It would be foolish, then, to expect Almeida Garrett's play, the acknowledged masterpiece of his country's theatre, to be a southerly *Hamlet* which has eluded English discovery.

Garrett wrote *The Pilgrim* in 1843 but set it two centuries earlier, soon after one of the more traumatic events in Portuguese history. His characters are still reeling at the death of their Arthurian boy-king, Sebastian, and the Spanish invasion that followed. Dom Manuel de Coutinho, one of the few patriotic holdouts, torches his ancestral pile rather than let quislings borrow it. For the first half, the main dramatic question seems to be whether he and his family will suffer for his cheek; and rather laboriously posed it is.

But then a strange new character enters, and proceeds to substitute adrenalin for the anaesthetic in the play's veins. He is the Pilgrim, in Terry Taplin's performance a dishevelled hulk with yellow jowls, pinky-grey carbuncles, and a voice like John Cleese's hoarse Death in *The Meaning of Life*.

For these Portuguese nobles, the Pilgrim's news is almost as fatal. He reports that David Gwillim's dashing Manuel is a bigamist. His wife's first husband, thought to have died in battle, has not merely survived but has somehow contrived to spend the past 20 years as a hermit in Jerusalem.

That something of the sort supposedly happened to the real Coutinho clan around 1602 does not make this twist of the plot less abrupt or preposterous. A play about political heroics suddenly involves a juicy social scandal, but one that so sharply raises the temperature of Robin Midgley's touring production it is hard to complain. Suddenly all is sombre *Angst*, principled despair. Gwillim's Manuel decides to become a monk, and Valerie Braddell, his distraught wife, to take the veil. Their daughter, Emma D'Inverno's Maria, tactfully expires.

Garrett makes it clear that there are ways to elude disaster, but that his people are too highminded to take them. For these overweening Iberian super-egos, death is vastly to be preferred to dishonour, the nunnery to the least compromise. It is admirable, most admirable, but likely to leave a pragmatic English audience a bit cold. Oh, for an hour of Falstaff.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

THEATRE

Flying Ashes
ICA

THE Siberian conditions currently obtaining in London may bring us a degree or two closer to the gulag (sound effects of howling wind gain resonance), but in other respects the experiences of women political prisoners in the Soviet Union are as remote from us as, say, those of Iraqi soldiers being bombed by B52s. The basis of this play or spectacle by Tony Craze is the collection *Letters of Love* by Julia Voznesenskaya; some of these were written (from prison camps, in the 1980s) by poets, but the emphasis of Sarah le Brocq's realisation is visual. The words, broken into fragments, together with Mark Dyson's soundtrack which mixes jazz piano and baroque flute, act as background to emotions presented physically.

Andrew Williamson's staggered set, with a blue wall at the back and a cross between a gallows and a constructivist sculpture in the middle, allows ample space in which to show the isolation of the three women, Irina, Tanya and Lazerina. All wear grey smocks and headscarves but elements of character are sharply differentiated by Amanda Todd (sensual, wide eyed), Candy Bierman (dreamy) and Jane Hampson (aggressive, sarcastic, defiantly erotic). Paul Mowbray has the thankless role of a token man, lover to Irina, knife-flicking rapist to Lazerina.

The purpose is certainly not to impart information about the sufferings of women in the gulag; I would have welcomed more specificity about time, place and individuals — and whether these things are still happening. Horrors, in the form of beatings, torture and rape, are suggested but the emphasis is on feelings of loss of love and yearning for love.

There is an affecting sequence of moments of separation, and a game of erotic hide and seek with a movable grille which turns into a prison fence. Every now and then one of the scattered, torn-up phrases which litter the production falls into place: "I cannot speak, ever".

There are also moments of celebration: a dry tap suddenly spouts water, and hair washing becomes a sublime, orgasmic release: "The problem of a piece of soap concerns me infinitely more than the problem of peace and socialism" one of the women admits with shining honesty. In the context of a production which doubts the durability of language, this statement carries more weight than such high-flown formulations as "love will survive, we must love, we must survive".

HARRY EYRES

THEATRE

The Playboy of the Western World
West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds

ANYBODY who has ever read or seen Synge's *Riders to the Sea* or, most soporific of all, heard it set to the music of Vaughan Williams, will know it to be a perfectly ridiculous piece of writing. So it is a great thing to have the chance to see his *Playboy* and relish the marvellously decorated diction of his Mayo peasants working within a plot of comic, not to say mythic, perfection.

Time has been good to this play. Synge may have written it to mock, if with affection, the credulous peasantry of the wild western counties, but the ins and outs of his dislike of fierce Gaelic nationalism are of no relevance to the play's achievement. Nationalists denounced the Abbey Theatre's first production in 1907 as a libel on the Irish people: I do not suppose anyone would think along those lines today. The character of young Christy Mahon, on the run because he believes he has killed his father, has long since become a man for all ages.

For Pegeen Mike's wayside shebeen the ground plan of Rob Jones's excellent set is a wide diamond. Unearthed spuds lie scattered below the front two sides, while the thick rear walls rise up to a canopy, patchworked like an aerial view of Irish fields. Across these, at the start, the shadows of clouds go scudding.

This is the arena for Christy's elevation from timid youth to flourishing manhood. Reece Dinsdale plays him with winning charm, exuberant, bizarrely tearful and, when his furious dad arrives, cowering behind the door like a scarecrow bereft of straw. The village men have cheered his daring, the girls competed to feed him tasty morsels, and Pegeen has fallen, tragically, in love.

The near-grotesque mix of comedy and killing is a challenge to a director, and there are moments in Jude Kelly's production when the audience is uncertain how to respond. Such doubts are the true mark of the grotesque: Kelly is right not to blur these, but to enclose them within the swirling, vivid realism of her staging.

With Christy out of the room, the girls fling themselves on his straw bed; and though this makes the survival of the eggs in Sara's pocket a miracle in itself, the impish ecstasy of the girls is one of many beautifully true moments.

The ensemble playing is faultless and Niamh Cusack gives Pegeen's final speech the timbre of a terrible grief for a playboy and happiness lost.

JEREMY KINGSTON

NEW RELEASES

DADDY'S DYIN' . . . WHO'S GOT THE WILL? (12): Family squabbles down in Texas; strong performances, but thin, stage-bound material. Beau Bridges, Beverly D'Angelo; director, Jack Fisk.
Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148).

THE GRIFTERS (18): Stephen Frears' disjointed version of Jim Thompson's con-artist thriller. John Cusack, Anjelica Huston, Annette Bening, stranded in a glossy limbo.
Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520) Warner (071-439 0791).

◆ KICKBOXER 2 (18): Action potboiler with a runt of a hero (Sasha Mitchell) and vicious fight sequences. Peter Boyle; director, Albert Pyun.
Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ KINDERGARTEN COP (12): Uptight cop (Arnold Schwarzenegger) becomes kindergarten teacher. Bland, cute comedy, awkwardly mixed with violent shoot-outs.
Cannons: Baker Street (071-486 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Empire (071-437 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

CURRENT

◆ AIR AMERICA (15): Mel Gibson and Robert Downey Jr as maverick pilots mired in an off-shoot of the Vietnam war. Loud, crass, and demeaning.
Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 8861) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Mezzanine (071-930 6111) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

AKIRA (12): Apocalyptic mayhem in a futuristic Tokyo. Lavish but tedious Japanese animated feature, cramped by its comic-strip style. Director, Katsuhiro Otomo.
ICA Cinema (071-930 3647).

◆ ARACHNOPHOBIA (PG): Deadly spiders rampage through a sleepy Californian community. Enjoyable thriller filled with humour and suspense tricks.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeon Mezzanine (071-930 6111) Plaza (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ CATCHFIRE (15): Daft, ragged tale of a mob hitman (Dennis Hopper) falling in love when he should be killing the hit (Jodie Foster). Hopper also directs, under a pseudonym.
Cannons: Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

THE COMFORT OF STRANGERS (18): Rupert Everett and Natasha Richardson mooching around Venice, falling prey to the warped Christopher Walken. Laborious psychological drama.
Curzon Mayfair (071-499 3737).

CYRANO DE BERGERAC (U): Gerard Depardieu masterful as the loveiorn, long-nosed Cyrano; director Jean-Paul Rappeneau transforms Rostand's play into magnificent, swashbuckling cinema.
Chelsea Cinema (071-351 3742) Gate (071-727 4043) Lumière (071-836 0691) Renoir (071-837 8402).

THE FOOL (U): Suffocating, static tale of financial trickery in Victorian England from the *Little Dorrit* team. With Derek Jacobi; director, Christine Edzard.
Curzon West End (071-439 4805).

THE GARDEN (15): The Passion according to Derek Jarman — a powerful, elegiac tapestry of scenes and images on death, religion and gay sex.
Camden Plaza (071-485 2443).

◆ HAVANA (15): Robert Redford as the gambler entranced by a mystery woman (Lena Olin) during Castro's revolution. Sluggish romantic drama with paper-thin characters.
Director, Sydney Pollack.
Cannons: Baker Street (071-486 5772) Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ HENRY AND JUNE (18): Anaïs Nin's passionate affair with Henry Miller, set in bohemian Paris, recreated with a grandiose flair by director Philip Kaufman.
Empire (071-437 9999).

HIDDEN AGENDA (15): Ken Loach and Jim Allen's dour film about a Stalker-like enquiry into the Ulster constabulary.
Cannons: Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ HOME ALONE (PG): Plucky kid left alone at Christmas revels off bumbling burglars. Broad, machine-tooled American family fun from writer-producer John Hughes.
Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Warner (071-439 0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

METROPOLITAN (18): Whit Stillman's wickedly ironic comedy of manners set among New York's debutantes and preppies over one Christmas holiday. Witty dialogue, engaging young actors, elegant direction.
Barbican (071-638 8891) Curzon Phoenix (071-240 9661) Metro (071-437 0757) Minema (071-235 4225).

THE NASTY GIRL (PG): Provocative, funny assault on Germany's Nazi past, with Lena Stolze as the girl uncovering her home town's shady history.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Metro (071-437 0757) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366).

POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE (15): Caustic Tinseltown comedy, with a few tears, from Carrie Fisher's novel. Meryl Streep as the drug-abused actress; Shirley MacLaine as her mother. Director, Mike Nichols.
Odeon Leicester Square (071-930 6111).

◆ REVERSAL OF FORTUNE (15): Jeremy Irons as the inscrutable Claus von Bulow, tried for the attempted murder of his wife. Brilliant unravelling of a recent enigma; director, Barbet Schroeder.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Odeons: Haymarket (071-839 7697) Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772).

◆ ROCKY V (PG): Sylvester Stallone fights his last battle for his family, career and spirit. Dim-witted and to the boxing saga; director, John Avildsen.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Marble Arch (071-723 2011) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) West End (071-930 5252/7615) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ THE ROOKIE (15): Slovenly potboiler from director-star Clint Eastwood, a tough LA detective newly partnered with a rich-kid rookie (Charlie Sheen).
Cannons: Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Panton Street (071-930 0631) Warner (071-439 0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

THE SHELTERING SKY (18): A chilling novel (by Paul Bowles) filmed with a warming visual sweep by Bernardo Bertolucci, with John Malkovich and Debra Winger.
Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Mezzanine (071-930 6111) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Plaza (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

THE UNBELIEVABLE TRUTH (15): Engaging, deadpan comedy of small-town manners from lyro director Hal Hartley. Robert Burke, Adrienne Shelly.
Cannons: Piccadilly (071-437 3561) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Everyman (071-435 1525).

THEATRE GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country.

☐ ALL THINGS NICE: An accomplished cast badger Joanna Roth's frail waif with conflicting sexual signals: a self-discovery play by Sharman Macdonald.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Underground: Sloane Square. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 5mins. Extended to February 16.

☑ BETRAYAL: Pinter's backwards look at an adultery: gripping content, but sweetly cool production.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (071-359 4404). Underground: Highbury & Islington. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Running time: 1hr 30mins. Closes March 2.

☐ CHILDREN OF EDEN: Genial musical jinks round Genesis, supplied by John Caird and Stephen Schwartz: rebel against your fathers emerges as the main theme.
Prince Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 (071-734 8951). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 50mins.

☐ FALLEN ANGEL: The troubled reminiscences of Franz Fuhrmann's communist academic and ex-Hitler youth; affecting performance by Boyd Clack.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (081-743 3388). Underground: Shepherds Bush. Mon-Sat, 8pm. Closes February 23.

☑ FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE: Marvellous jazzy revue packed with Louis Jordan numbers. An evening of joy.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 3686). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm. Running time: 1hr 45mins.

☐ A FREE COUNTRY: Jews hiding in a farmhouse in Vichy France: disappointingly low-key drama.
Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (071-328 1000). Underground: Kilburn. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 45mins. Extended to March 9.

☐ GASPING: John Gordon Sinclair and Jim Carter in Ben Elton's greenish comedy. Rather over the top but lots of laughs.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins. Closes February 16.

☑ THE HOMECOMING: Warren Mitchell and others seducing and seduced by Charlie Lunghi in Peter Hall's Pinter revival.
Comedy, Panton Street, W1 (071-867 1045). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London
■ House full, returns only
☑ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☑ IMAGINE DROWNING: Simple comedy, moral confusion and marine baptism mix awkwardly in Terry Johnson's serpentine drama.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 9301). Underground: Hampstead. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 20mins. Closes March 2.

☐ INTO THE WOODS: Sondheim's witty mix of fairytales; grimmer than Grimm in the first half, turns slushy thereafter.
Phoenix, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-240 9661). Underground: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 50mins. Closes February 23.

☐ JULIAN CLARY IS CAMPING AT THE ALDWYCH: But even those who enjoy campery may quickly find his single-entendre jokes unfunny.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Underground: Covent Garden. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm. Running time: 2hrs. Closes February 23.

☐ NO ONE WRITES TO THE COLONEL: Bernard Hepton as the patient war veteran in a slow, ponderous adaptation of the Gabriel Garcia Márquez novella.
Lyric Studio, King Street, W6 (081-741 2311). Underground: Hammersmith. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, Sat, 4.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins. Closes February 16.

☐ OUT OF ORDER: Donald Sinden puffs; Michael Williams panics, in latest Ray Cooney farce: over-plotted, under-developed.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Underground: Holborn. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins.

☑ THE REHEARSAL: Ian McDiarmid's stylish production (costumes by Jasper Conran) of Anouilh's seduction play.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-379 6107). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Tues, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

☐ THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW: Raucous and wild, bold and bizarre; sometimes deafening rock musical.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 7pm and 9.15pm. Running time: 1hr 30mins.

■ THREE SISTERS: Three Redgraves in admirable if over-busy production: Vanessa and Lynn outstanding as the older women. Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-734 1166). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 3hrs. Closes March 2.

☐ TIME AND THE CONWAYS: Joan Plowright and lots of other Oliviers in Priestley's skilful play, set in 1919 (twice) and 1938. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (071-928 7616). Underground: Waterloo. Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 35mins. Closes February 16.

☐ WHAT THE BUTLER SAW: Incest, assault and blasoual jurisdiction preserved in the aspic of Joe Orton's wit. Not quite a top-class production but worth seeing.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 6pm and 8.40pm. Running time: 2hrs.

☐ WHERE JULIE GONE: Jaqueline Harrison's poignant, anecdotal account of life as an unsatisfied wife, waitress and model.
Han & Chickens, Highbury Corner, N1 (071-359 1080). Underground: Highbury & Islington. Tues-Sun, 8pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins. Closes February 16.

LONG RUNNERS: ☐ Absurd Person Singular: Whitehall (071-867 1119) . . . ☐ Aspects of Love: Prince of Wales (071-839 5972) . . . ☐ Blood Brothers: Albery (071-867 1115) . . . ☐ Buddy: Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . . . ☑ Cats: New London (071-405 0072) . . . ☐ Hidden Laughter: Vaudeville (071-836 9987) . . . ☐ Me and My Girl: Adelphi (071-836 7611) . . . ■ Les Misérables: Palace (071-434 0909) . . . ■ Miss Saigon: Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-836 8108) . . . ☐ The Mousetrap: St Martin's (071-836 1443) . . . ■ The Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's (071-839 2244) . . . ☐ Return to the Forbidden Planet: Cambridge (071-379 5299) . . . ☐ Run For Your Wife: Duchess (071-836 8243) . . . ☐ Shirley Valentine: Duke of York's (071-836 5122) . . . ☐ A Slice of Saturday Night: Arts (071-836 2132) . . . ☑ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . . . ☐ The Woman in Black: Fortune (071-836 2238).

Ticket information on member theatres supplied by Society of West End Theatre

OUTLOOK

WINTER DREAMS: The world premiere of Sir Kenneth MacMillan's new one-act ballet has a spectacular cast of seven: Darcey Bussell, Anthony Dowell, Viviana Durante, Irek Mukhamedov, Nicola Tranah and Stephen Wicks, with Adam Cooper replacing an injured Stuart Cassidy. On a bill with MacMillan's earlier *Danses concertantes* — last performed by the Royal Ballet in 1971 — and Rudolf Nureyev's restaged version of Petipa's *Raymonda Act III*. (see feature, page 17)
Royal Ballet, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066), 7.30pm.

ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET: The small-scale company continues its tour in Worthing with Ben Stevenson's *Three Preludes*, Ronald Hynd's *The Sanguine Fan* and a new production of *Our Waltzes* choreographed by Venezuelan Vicente Nebrada in 1976. The company performs at Forum 28, Barrow-in-Furness from Monday. Connaught Theatre, Union Place, Worthing (0903 35333/4), 7.30pm.

RUSALKA: David Pountney's Victorian nursery production of Dvořák's operatic fairytale has lost none of its original dramatic conviction or potent symbolism. Nancy Gustafson plays the spirited Rusalka on Stefanos Lazaridis's surreal moon-white sets. Stuart Challender conducts.
English National Opera, Coliseum, London WC2 (071-836 3161), 7pm.

THEATRE DE COMPLICITE: The eccentric physical-theatre company makes its National Theatre debut with a revival of Friedrich Dürrenmatt's *The Visit*. The play, adapted by Maurice Valency, was nominated for a Laurence Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement. Previews continue until next Tuesday.
Lyttelton Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 2252), 7.30pm.

TORU TAKEMITSU: Nobuko Imai and the Hallé Orchestra under Kent Nagano celebrate the 60th birthday of one of Japan's greatest composers with a performance of his Viola Concerto — the piece was first performed by Imai and Nagano, with the Orchestre de Paris, in 1988. The programme also comprises Prokofiev's Symphony No 6 in E flat minor and Haydn's Symphony No 6 in D.
Free Trade Hall, Peter Street, Manchester (061-834 1712), 7.30pm.

RED BYRD: Their mixture of rock music (there is a new work by Led Zeppelin in tonight's programme) and early music techniques is different and more tastefully done than sceptics might think.
Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool (051-709 3789), 7.30pm.

HAZEL O'CONNOR: The energetic singer gets back on the road after her film and stage work, with some new and old material.
The Academy, Brunel University, Uxbridge (0895 39125), 7.30pm.

STANLEY SPENCER: THE APOTHEOSIS OF LOVE: Stanley Spencer's mystical/erotic art leaves few people unmoved, whether to delight or distaste. In this centenary show he looks more than ever like the greatest British artist this century.
Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (071-588 9023), until April 1.

ART FROM SOUTH AFRICA: The signals, artistic and otherwise, which come out of South Africa are confused and difficult for the outsider to decode. This new touring show puts black and white together in at least a diplomatic dialogue.
Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), until Feb 24.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 20

COFFERING
(b) Decorating a ceiling with sunk square or polygonal ornamental panels, from the Greek *kophinos* a basket: "Coffering was intended by Wren, as shown by his drawings."

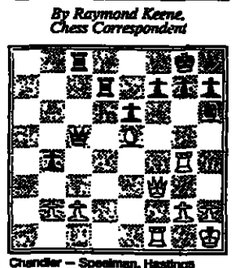
BRESSUMER
(a) A beam in a timber-framed building to support the, usually projecting, superstructure, a variant of breast-summer, from the French *sommier* a beam: "The bressumer is a beam supporting the front of a building, after the manner of a lintel."

TOURELLE
(b) A turret corbelled out from the wall, the diminutive form of the French *tour* a tower; Sir Walter Scott: "In the little sunlit tourelle at Earlstoun."

CRUCK
(b) A big curved beam supporting both walls and roof of a cottage, variant of crook: "In the development of the cruck framework, the cruck buildings of Northern England played an important role."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



Chandler – Speelman, Hastings 1990/91. White has a powerful position on the kingside. How was the breakthrough made? Solution tomorrow.

Jonathan Speelman is currently playing against Nigel Short for a place in the quarterfinals of the world championships at Watson, Farley and Williams in The Minories, London.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1 . . . Ne4+ 2 Ke1 Re3 winning the queen.

ENTERTAINMENTS

THEATRES

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by HAROLD PINTER
Directed by Peter Hall
"DISTURBINGLY HILARIOUS" Index
Eves 8.00, MATS WED 3.00, SAT 5.00

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"The broadest, boldest musical" C Lustig
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Starring JASON DONOVAN
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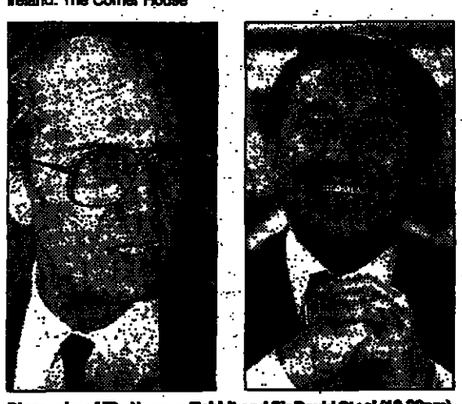
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هكذا من الأصل

6.00 Ceefax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Lapdo Mayer
9.15 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject 9.55 Regional News and weather
10.00 News and weather 10.05 Playdays. from Wednesfield, Wolverhampton 10.30 Dish of the Day from Rosemary Moon 10.40 Brainwave. Andy Craig hosts the quiz show from Liverpool
11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 People Today with Adrian Mills and Debi Jones
12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 Rosemary Conley's Diet and Fitness Club. Exercises to help get into shape 12.20 Scene Today. The daily entertainment show, live from Pebble Mill with a blend of music, conversation and special features
1.00 One O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. Weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) 1.50 Going for Gold: European quiz with Henry Kelly as questionmaster
2.15 Snooker. Action from the first quarter-final of the Benson and Hedges Masters, introduced by Tony Gubba from the Wembley Conference Centre
3.50 Children's BBC begins with Dooby's Duck Truck 3.55 Gordon the Gopher with Phillip Schofield 4.05 Jackanory. Jane Asher with part four of *The Princess and the Goblin*, by George MacDonald 4.20 Fantastic Max. Animated adventures of a bionic baby (r) 4.30 Billy Webb's Amazing Story. The final episode of the children's drama serial
4.55 Newsround 5.05 Blue Peter presented by Yvette Fielding, John Leslie and Diane-Louise Jordan
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather
6.35 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Top of the Pops presented by Bruno Brookes (simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1)
7.30 EastEnders. Earthy London soap. (Ceefax)
8.00 Tomorrow's World. Judith Hann, Howard Stableford, Peter McCann and Kate Bellingham present the science programme with more high-tech gimmicks and news about the shape of things to come. Includes news of a revolutionary tagging system for the blind which is tested out on the streets of Warwick, and from Hong Kong details of new equipment to help scientists identify when and where typhoons will strike
8.30 The Brittas Empire. Chris Barrie as the obnoxious leisure centre manager with as much intelligence as poor old Frank Spencer. In this episode he is forced to close the centre down when he investigates a suspected case of pilfering by staff. (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: Spotlight
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather
9.35 Open All Hours. Whimsical corner shop comedy from Roy Clarke that sometimes relies too heavily on Ronnie Barker's stutter. This week the miserly Arkwright attends the funeral of a friend, taking with him a wreath the size of a buttonhole. With David Jason as the gormless Granville, his nephew and assistant. (r). Northern Ireland: The Corner House



Discussion: MPs Norman Tebbit and Sir David Steel (10.00pm)

10.00 Question Time. Live discussion before a studio audience, chaired by Peter Sissons. Tonight's panel includes MPs Norman Tebbit, Sir David Steel and Tony Banks
11.00 Snooker. Tony Gubba introduces highlights from a quarter-final of the Benson and Hedges Masters from the Wembley Conference Centre. The commentators are Ted Lowe, Jack Karaehm and Clive Everton with summaries by John Spencer and Ray Edmonds
12.15am Gulf News
12.25 Weather

8.00 News 8.15 Westminster
9.00 Daytime on Two: For teachers — assessment at key stage 1 9.30 Maths: boxes 9.45 French magazine for beginners 10.00 Young people's miscellany 10.15 Career ideas 10.35 A child's guide to adults 11.00 Living in today's Luxor 11.20 What the Eurotunnellers learnt from the Brunels 11.40 Maths 12.05 Four artists illustrate how they use their imagination 12.25 Life in a Georgian mountain village 12.50 Language in the national curriculum 1.20 Charlie Chalk 1.40 A musical fantasy journey through the universe
2.00 News and weather followed by You and Me (r) 2.15 Antiques Roadshow from St Ives, Cambridgeshire (r). (Ceefax)
3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live 3.50 News, regional news and weather
4.00 Snooker. Further quarter-final action from the Benson and Hedges Masters at the Wembley Conference Centre
5.00 News headlines followed by One in Four. Magazine series on disabled matters. This week includes a look at the life of Beverley Lewis, a deaf-blind woman from Gloucester who died two years ago this month
5.30 Clean State. With Jackie Spreckley looking at the state of British employment training
6.00 Film: Don't Lose Your Head (1966). Sidney James, Kenneth Williams and Jim Dale head the cast of a *Carry On*-type comedy set during the French Revolution. Directed by Gerald Thomas. (Ceefax)
7.25 Animation Now. More cartoon antics.
7.35 First Sight: Going . . . Going . . . With a report on the thriving criminal activity in the art world and an insight into methods employed by art thieves. Northern Ireland: The Brittas Empire; England: Midlands — the Midlands Report; Leeds, Newcastle and Manchester: Close-up North; Southampton: Southern Eye; Plymouth: Western Approach; Bristol: Current Account
8.05 Bleak House. Episode six of the masterly eight-part dramatisation of the classic Dickens novel (r). (Ceefax)
9.00 The Mary Whitehouse Experience. Small screen version of the cult radio comedy.
9.30 40 Minutes: The Prisoner.
● CHOICE: Departing from its usual essays on the tensions and eccentricities of British life, *40 Minutes* presents a wordless film from Poland. The subject is Jurek Orlowski, who had both arms amputated after a childhood accident and spent many years in prison before finding a new direction as an artist. The film ranges over episodes from Orlowski's life with the subject playing himself in a reconstruction of his prison experiences and subsequent taste of freedom. The treatment is highly stylised, with both sound and image being sharpened for effect. At times the lighting and compositions are too contrived and form threatens to swamp content. But this mannered approach cannot extinguish the human being at the centre of the film, a Chaplinesque figure as he flirts with a circus girl but more often seen as a loner, set apart from society and struggling painfully to draw with his mouth. (Ceefax)



Compensating for his lack of arms: Jurek Orlowski (9.30pm)

10.10 Small Objects of Desire: The Light Bulb.
● CHOICE: The story of the electric light bulb gets the inventive treatment typical of this series, with the commentator Peter O'Sullevan describing the "race" among inventors and appearances from Bob Dylan, former president Ceaucescu and Count Dracula. More expected figures include Thomas Edison, victim of a *Monty Python*-style animation, and there is fruitful mining of old promotional films, with their stilted dialogue and plummy accents. But among the jokes and the sometimes bewildering visuals are solid nuggets of social and industrial history. The early bulb cost the same as a day's pay for a policeman. But as mass production brought the price down, it became a popular consumer item, bought in bulk and thrown away afterwards. Surprisingly, perhaps, the average bulb lasts no longer (1,200 hours) than it did in 1900, although it has been off the more cost-effective fluorescent tube. (Ceefax)
10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman
11.20 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine
12.00 Weather
12.05 Weekend Outlook. A preview of programmes from the Open University on Saturday and Sunday. Ends at 12.15.

6.00 TV-am
9.25 ITN Gulf News Report. Latest news and developments from the war zone 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Time . . . The Place . . . Anna Soubry chairs a discussion on a topical subject
10.40 This Morning. Family magazine programme
12.05 The Riddlers 12.25 Thames News and weather
12.30 News and weather
1.20 Home And Away. Drama serial about an Australian couple and their foster children 1.50 A Country Practice. Australian soap set around a rural community health centre
2.20 TV Weekly. A look behind the scenes of ITV's favourite programmes, plus Barry Took with a selection of golden television moments 2.50 Give Us a Clue. Celebrity charades hosted by Michael Parkinson with regular captains Lionel Blair and Lisa Goddard. This afternoon they are joined by Nino Firetto, Vicki Michelle, Hilary O'Neil, Tony Slattery, Paula Wilcox and Bernie Winters
3.15 Gulf News Report 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 The Young Doctors. Australian drama set in a large city hospital
4.00 Owl TV. Children's natural history programme presented by Michaela Strachan. Includes a look at some creepy-crawlies, a visit to a zoo in Perth and a trip to a camel market (postponed from January 31) 4.20 Warner Brothers Cartoon 4.30 Spatz. Children's comedy drama serial set in a fast food restaurant
5.00 Home And Away (r)
5.25 Thames Help. Jackie Spreckley with news of the work of Athlone House, a long stay hospital on the Highgate/Hampstead border
5.30 News (Oracle) and weather
6.00 Blockbusters. Teenage quiz hosted by Bob Holness
6.30 Thames News and weather



The recipient of unwelcome news: Claire King (7.00pm)

7.00 Emmerdale. Dolly (Jean Rogers) tells Kim (Claire King) she is pregnant, but Kim, who desperately wants a child herself, is horrified to learn Dolly intends to have an abortion. (Oracle)
7.30 Jimmy's. Real-life medical dramas from St James's Hospital in Leeds. Today the focus is on doctors preparing to take the exams of the Royal College of Surgeons
8.00 Gulf News Report
8.05 The Bill: Night and Day. Another pile of trouble for the Sun Hill force in the consistently strong police series. (Oracle)
8.35 This Week. An examination of the effect of B52 bombing featuring an interview with a former Vietcong fighter who experienced bombardments during the Vietnam war
9.00 Minder. George Cole and Dennis Waterman in another vintage helping of double crossing and dodgy dealing. Small time crook Maltese Tony finds himself in a jam when he returns to England and calls on Arthur and Terry to help him deliver £20,000. The task would be reasonably simple if the notorious Billy Lynch were not hot on Tony's heels (r). (Oracle)
10.00 News at Ten (Oracle) and weather 10.45 Thames News. and weather.
10.55 The City Programme
11.25 01. Adrian Edmondson reviews the film *Three Men and a Little Lady*, with Tom Selleck, Ted Danson and Steve Guttenberg. Theatre reviews include *The King and I* and the English Shakespeare Company's *Volpone*
11.55 Gulf News Report
12.00 Prisoner: Cell Block H. Australian drama set in a women's detention centre, where everyone involved with the making of this programme should be locked up
12.50 Contacts. A new series of the televised contact magazine, allowing viewers to strike up new relationships via the small screen
1.20 World Chess. The match between Speelman and Short, analysed by Raymond Keene, chess correspondent of *The Times*
1.40 Film: The Incredible Shrinking Woman (1981) starring Lily Tomlin and Charles Grodin. Comedy about a suburban housewife whose constant exposure to household products causes her to reduce in size. Directed by Joel Schumacher
3.20 Hardball. Routine American cop drama about two unorthodox police partners who have lots of scrapes and japes. Starring John Ashton and Richard Tyson
4.30 America's Top Ten (r)
5.00 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Channel Four Daily. Includes extended coverage of the war in the Gulf
9.25 Schools
12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. The latest from the Gulf
12.05 The Parliament Programme presented by Sue Cameron
12.30 Business Daily. Financial and business news service
1.00 Sesame Street. Children's learning programme
2.00 That's Entertaining: Have You Heard the One about the Elephant? Continuing the series in which Richard Cawley demonstrates the secrets of successful dinner parties despite limited time or budget (r). (Teletext)
2.30 Cutting Edge: Sanctuary. A documentary about the world's first refuge for battered wives set up in Chiswick, London, 20 years ago. It catches up with the founder, Erin Pizzey, who is now living on a Caribbean island (r). (Teletext)
3.30 Land of Hope: The Breeding Ground. Serial chronicling the past two centuries of Australian history through an Irish-Australian working class family (r)
4.30 Countdown. Richard Whiteley presents the words and numbers game with Martin Jarvis in the dictionary corner. Brenda Holroy from Ipswich is today's challenger
5.00 The Adventures of TinTin. Episode eight of *The Treasure of Rackham the Red* (r)
5.05 The Oprah Winfrey Show: Celebrities' Best Friends. Friends of showbusiness personalities talk about their relationships
6.00 Kate & Allie. Comedy about two divorcées sharing single parenthood (r)
6.30 Desmond's. Comedy about a south London black community, with Norman Beaton as the Peckham barber whose shop provides the base for local news and gossip (r). (Teletext)
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext)
7.50 Comment followed by Weather
8.00 Class by Class: The Shopkeeper's Tale.
● CHOICE: Ray Gosling's latest subject for his examination of the British class system since 1945 is the Lyon family from Cheadle, Manchester. Phil Lyon, a lifelong saxophone player, gave up a lucrative job in international marketing to run a music shop. His dad was a grocer, who remembers when shopkeepers looked up to teachers, doctors and lawyers but were on a higher social plane that factory workers. Phil married Ruth, a county standard tennis player brought up on the social manners of the tennis circuit. Their daughter is married to a rock musician. Despite its comfortable way of life the family insists that it is still working class. The strength of *Class by Class* is that it has started from individual cases rather than the theories of sociologists. But judgment on whether it has succeeded in pinning down a notoriously elusive concept must be reserved until after next week's final programme. (Teletext)
8.30 Film: Heart of Steel (1983). Powerful and well-characterised television film about a group of steel workers in Ohio who battle to save their mill from closure. There are excellent performances from Peter Strauss, as the dedicated union man whose optimism is gradually consumed by bitterness and drink, and Pamela Reed, as his put-upon wife. Directed by Donald Wrye



The spirit of Baltic nationalism: festive Latvians (10.15pm)

10.15 True Stories: Homeland.
● CHOICE: This stylish evocation of Baltic nationalism comes from the Latvian film-maker Yuris Podnieks and follows the style of his outstanding series on the Soviet Union, *Hello, Do You Hear Me?* Podnieks's method is to dispense with commentary and present a montage of contemporary footage, interviews and archive material. But the absence of a single narrative voice does not preclude a point of view and the theme of *Homeland*, inevitably, is the proud but often tragic struggle of an oppressed people. Podnieks uses last year's Latvian Folk Festival, with its joyous celebration of the national spirit, as a counterpoint to the memories of Baltic citizens who either survived the Soviet gulag or were forced into exile abroad. The film is followed by a topical update of events in the Baltic states, including the recent violence in Riga which claimed the lives of two of Podnieks's cameramen
12.05am A Week in Politics — Late Sitting. Includes why the NUM are withdrawing their sponsorship of Kevin Barron, MP, Labour spokesman on coal
12.35 Channel 4 News — Midnight Special. Ends at 2.00

ITV REGIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 5.00pm-5.30 Blockbusters 6.00 Home and Away 6.25-7.00 Anglia News 10.55 Relationships 11.25-11.55 Wideangle 1.00am Donahue 2.00 Film: Stella Dallas 4.00-5.00 Santa Barbara

BORDER
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 Sons and Daughters 6.00 Lookaround Thursday 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.55 Prisoner: Cell Block H 11.55 Hooperman 12.30am Matlock 1.20 Film: Fragment of Fear 3.05 CinemAttractions 3.35 Night Beat 4.40 Ski with Klammer 4.55-5.00 Jobfinder

CENTRAL
As London except: 5.00pm-5.30 Blockbusters 6.00 Home and Away 6.25-7.00 Central News 10.55 Central Lobby 11.25 1st Night 11.55 Hooperman 12.25 Jake and the Fatman 1.20 Video View 1.50 The New Avengers 2.45 America's Top Ten 3.20 Bedrocks 4.20-5.00 Central Jobfinder '91

CHANNEL
As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Sons and Daughters 6.00 Channel Report 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.55 Merseywise 11.25 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.20 Out on a Limb 2.05 World of Golf 2.35 Film: Crisis in Mid-Air 4.20-5.00 Beyond 2000

GRANADA
As London except: 5.00pm-5.30 Blockbusters 6.00 Home and Away 6.30-7.00 Granada Tonight 10.55 Celebration 11.25 Families 12.30am Matlock 1.15 Film: Fragment of Fear 3.05 CinemAttractions 3.35 Night Beat 4.40 Ski with Klammer 4.55-5.00 Jobfinder

HTV WEST
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 6.00 HTV News 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.55 The West This Week 11.40 HTV Weekend Outlook 11.55 Film: Drawl 1.45am The Highwayman 2.45 Quiz Night 3.15 Video View 3.45 Bedrock 4.45-5.00 Jobs

HTV WALES
As HTV West except: 6.00pm Wales at Six 7.30-8.00 Wales & Westminster 10.40 Wales this Week 11.10-11.40 Coming of Age

TSW
As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Home and Away 5.00-5.30 Take the High Road 6.00 TSW Today 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.55 Tongue & Groove 11.25 Film: Craze 1.15am Film: Fragment of Fear 3.05 CinemAttractions 3.35 Night Beat 4.40-5.00 Ski with Klammer

TVS
As London except: 1.50-2.20pm The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 6.00 Coast to Coast 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.55 Merseywise 11.25 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.20am Out on a Limb 2.05 The World of Golf 2.35 Film: Incident in San Francisco 4.25-5.00 Coast to Coast People

TYNE TEES
As London except: 1.50-2.20pm Santa Barbara 6.00 Northern Life 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.55 Thank You and Good Night 11.25 Ice Hockey 11.55 Married with Children 12.20 Matlock 1.15 Film: Fragment of Fear 3.05 CinemAttractions 3.35 Night Beat 4.35 Ski with Klammer 4.55-5.00 Jobs

ULSTER
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 Sons and Daughters 3.25-3.55 Glenroe 6.00 Six Tonight 6.20 Police Six 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 7.30-8.00 Counterpoint 11.00 Money Talks 11.30 Ski Tips 12.00 Pop Profile 12.20 Matlock 1.15 Film: Fragment of Fear 3.05 CinemAttractions 3.35 Night Beat 4.35 Ski with Klammer 4.55-5.00 Jobfinder

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 6.00pm Calendar 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.55 Calendar Commentary 11.25 Time Pleased 11.55 Film: The Ron Te Flore Story 1.40 Matlock 2.40 America's Top Ten 3.10 CinemAttractions 3.40 Music Box 4.40-5.00 Jobfinder

S4C
Starts: 6.00 C4 Daily 9.25 Yogolion 12.00 Sbecial 12.10 Pobol Y Cwm 12.30 Newyddion 12.45 Slot Meithrin 1.00 Countdown 1.30 Business Daily 2.00 Third Wave 2.45 Film: Diplomatic Courier 4.30 Slot 23 5.15 Tonight with Jonathan Ross 5.45 Hano 6.00 Newyddion 6.15 Hano 6.40 Pobol Y Cwm 7.00 Sholoiau 7.30 Bwrw Maen 8.00 The Cosby Show 8.30 Newyddion 8.00 Chwilio am y Neiaedd 9.40 Orchestral 10.10 Eurocops 11.10 Grizzlade 12.10 A Week in Politics 12.35-2.00 C4 News Midnight Special

RTE 1
Starts: 12.15pm The Dail Report 12.30 Look Here 1.00 News 1.45 Shakespeare in Perspective 2.10 Carson's Law 3.00 Live at Three 4.00 News followed by Emmerdale 4.30 Knots Landing 5.20 Red and Blue 5.30 A Country Practice 6.00 The Angelus 6.01 Six-One 6.45 Garda Patrol 7.00 Top of the Pops 7.30 The European Challenge 8.05 Fr Dowling 9.00 News 9.30 Today Tonight 10.10 Challenging Times 10.40 Scoldines 11.10 The Hitch-Hiker 11.35-11.45 News

NETWORK 2
Starts: 2.30pm Bosco 3.00 The Den 6.05 Jo-Maxi 6.30 Home and Away 7.00 Nuacht 7.08 Corrsi 7.30 Head of the Class 8.00 News followed by Freeze Frame 8.30 Market Place 9.00 The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd 9.30 News followed by Falcon Crest 10.25 Nightshawks 11.05 News 11.25 Dail Report 11.45 Close

RADIO

8.35am Open University
6.55 Weather; News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert: Bach (Fantasia and Fugue in G minor, BWV 1542: Helmut Walcha, organ); Chopin (Concert Rondo: LPO)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Weber (Horn Concertino in E minor: Hanover Band); Seiber (Four Old French Folk Songs: Peter Pears, tenor, Julian Bream, guitar); Richard Rodney Bennett (Jazz Calendar: London Jazz Ensemble)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week: Witold Lutoslawski (Funeral Music; Bukoliki for piano; Preludes and Fugues for strings; There is an Open Space before Us, Resistance Song)
9.35 A Bach Family Album: 1604-1845. Johann Bach (Motet, Unser Leben ist ein Schatten: Taverner Consort); Johann Christoph Bach (Prelude and Fugue in E flat: Wilhelm Krumbach, organ; Cantata, Es erhub sich ein Streit: Musica Antiqua Köln); Johann Ludwig Bach (Suite in G: ECO); J.S. Bach (Concerto in D minor, BWV 1059: Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra); W.F. Bach (Symphony in F, F 67: ECO); J.C.F. Bach (Cantata, Die Amerikanerin: Das Kleine Konzert); C.P.E. Bach (Symphony in E minor, Wq 178: C.P.E. Bach CO); J.C. Bach (Quintet in D, Op 22 No 1: English Concert); W.F.E. Bach (Cantata, Vater unser: Stuttgart Gedächtniskirche Choir; Stuttgart Bach Collegium)
11.40 Ulster Orchestra under Leaper, with Nikolai Demidenko, piano, performs Sibelius (Karelia Suite, Symphony No 7); Medtner (Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor)
1.00pm News
1.05 Bristol Lunchtime Concert: Live from St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Edith Peinemann, violin, Clifford Benson, piano, perform Beethoven (Sonata in D, Op 12 No 1); Stravinsky (Duo Concertant)
2.00 Karajan: The English Connection
● CHOICE: "Vain, arrogant, intolerable, utterly brilliant". It could be the late, great, Austrian conductor that Peter Heyworth is talking about in this repeated feature, although it is, in fact, the late, great, Walter Legge, EMI's record-producing mastermind and founding father of the Philharmonia, which Karajan conducted in the decade after the second world war. Heyworth, acutely aware of the interdependence of Karajan and Legge, divides his 50 minutes almost equally between them. It would not be too fanciful to see them as the Tweedledum and Tweedledee of the British recording scene in the Fifties
2.50 Gustav Leonhardt directs the Tallis Chamber Choir and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment in performances of Francisco Valls (Missa scala aretina); Bach (Cantata No 10, Meine Seel erhebt den Herrn; Cantata No 20, O Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort), incl 3.30-3.35 An extract from Bach's obituary written by his son, Carl Philipp Emanuel (r)
4.25 Debussy and Busoni: The pianist Peter Donohoe plays Debussy (Images, Set 1); Busoni (Seven Elegies) (r)
5.30 Mainly for Pleasure, with Brian Kay
7.00 News
7.05 Third Ear: Michael Hall talks to the horn player Barry Tuckwell
7.30 BBC Scottish SO under Jerzy Maksymiuk, with Emmy Verhey, violin, performs Stravinsky (Jeu de cartes); Schoeck (Violin Concerto). 8.35 Mendelssohn in Italy. Ian Thompson reads from Mendelssohn's correspondence (r). 8.55 Mendelssohn (Symphony No 4, Italian)
9.30 Dean Swift and Mrs Pilkington: Samantha Bond reads the second of three extracts from Letitia Pilkington's memoirs, published in 1748
10.00 Music in Our Time: Brass on the Run. The English Brass Ensemble, with Simon Limbrick, percussion, performs Tim Souster (Rabbit Heaven); Edward Shipley (Divine Horseman); John Harle (Miles and Miles)
11.00 The Honky-Tonk Man (r)
11.30 News
11.35-12.35am Composers of the Week: Mozart in 1789-90 (r)
1.00-2.25 Night School (FM only) (except in Scotland)

● FM: Most scheduled programmes will be suspended to give news of the Gulf war. The following schedule, on MW and LW, is subject to alteration:

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.30 News; 6.55, 7.55, 8.56 Weather
9.00 News
9.05 Face the Facts (r)
9.30 Never the Same Again (new series): Jenni Mills traces critical periods in family life. Writer Marianne Wiggins, wife of Salman Rushdie, talks about the five months she spent in hiding and her need to live a life of her own
10.00 News; The Natural History Programme: From New Zealand, Jessica Holmfinds out whether the takahe can be saved from extinction
10.45 An Act of Worship
11.00 News; You and Yours
11.25 God and Caesar: Mike Wooldridge talks to Dr Garret FitzGerald, the former Irish prime minister, about the beliefs which have underpinned his political career
11.50 First Person: Kay Withers talks about her affinity with President Gorbachev.
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm Dear Diary (r) 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Woman's Hour: Jenni Murray talks to Barbara Mills, director of the Serious Fraud Office
3.00-4.00 Prime Minister's Questions (FM only)
3.00 News; The Weird of Eddie Kerr (LW only): Robert Patterson's first play for radio. Fate deals a strange hand in the life of Eddie (Tom Watson), a fruit salesman
4.00 News
4.05 Bookshelf: Simon Raven, author of *Alms for Oblivion*, discusses his memoirs, *Memories of a Private Nuisance*, with Nigel Forde
4.30 Kaleidoscope: Includes a review of *Tatyana* at the Nottingham Playhouse; an interview with the Israeli author Amos Oz, who talks about his new novel, *To Know a Woman*; and a report on the Young Writers' Festival at the Royal Court Theatre
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Financial Report
6.30 And Now, in Colour . . . Astronaut Training. The comedy team with songs and sketches (r)
7.00 News
7.05 The Archers
7.20 Soundtrack: Seven Days in Stanley
● CHOICE: The Falklands have joined that lengthening list of corners of foreign land that war has made forever England, and it was to the scene of the 1982 conflict that a widow, her fatherless son, and two bereaved mothers recently returned to write *finis* to sad tales that physical distance had left curiously unfinished. Listeners tonight are, of course, intruding on personal grief, and we will not easily forget the moment when the young son, having laid his wreath of grasses and flowers on his father's grave, says: "I feel extra happy that I've done something really good for my Daddy."
8.00 Analysis: Peter Hennessy with an in-depth analysis of current affairs
8.45 Does He Take Sugar? Magazine for disabled listeners
9.15 Kaleidoscope (broadcast at 4.30pm)
9.45 The Financial World Tonight 9.58 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Alexander MacLeod
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: Carol, by Patricia Highsmith (1 of 12)
11.00 Fear on 4: A Routine Operation? by Martyn Wade. The seventh of eight spine-chilling stories
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.30am News, incl 12.20 Weather 12.33 Shipping Forecast

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/ 247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. World Service: MW 648kHz/463m. Jazz FM 102.2. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; Melody FM 104.9.

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
6.00am The DJ Kat Show 8.40 Mrs Pepperpot 9.10 Jackpot 9.30 Here's Lucy 10.00 It's Your Round 10.30 The Young Doctors 11.00 The Bold and the Beautiful 11.30 The Young and the Restless 12.30pm Sale of the Century 1.00 True Confessions 1.30 Another World 2.20 Loving 2.45 Wife of the Week 3.15 Bewitched 3.45 The DJ Kat Show 5.00 Punky Brewster 5.30 McHale's Navy 6.00 Sale of the Century 7.00 Love at First Sight 7.30 In Living Color 8.00 The Simpsons 8.30 Wings 9.00 Wiseguy 10.00 Love at First Sight 10.30 Night Court 11.00 The Outer Limits 12.00 Pages from Skytext

SKY NEWS
● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
5.00am International Business Report 5.30 European Business Today 6.00 International Business Report - 8.30 Newsline 10.30 Beyond 2000 11.00 International Business Report 11.30 Rowing Report 1.30pm NBC Today 2.30 Parliament Live 3.15 Prime Ministers Question Time 3.30 Parliament Live 4.00 International Business Report 4.30 Beyond 2000 5.00 Live at Five 8.30 Newsline 7.30 International Business Report 8.30 Now Sir Robin 11.30 NBC Nightly News 12.30am CBS News 2.30 European Business Today 3.30 CBS News 4.30 Beyond 2000

SKY MOVIES
● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Showcase
10.00 Uptown Saturday Night (1974): Two friends (Sidney Poitier and Bill Cosby) become involved in Harry Belafonte's world of guns and gangsters
12.00 Change of Heart (1937): Susan Hayward stars in this musical about a young songwriter who discovers that her material is being stolen by an unscrupulous publisher
2.00pm Delta Fever (1987): A young man must prove he is a real man while away on holiday. Starring Tom Eplin
4.00 The Peanut Butter Solution (1985): When a young boy invents a hair restoring solution made from peanut butter, he is kidnapped by a gang who want the secret formula. Starring Matthew MacKay
6.00 Who Framed Roger Rabbit (1988): A combination of live action and animation as private eye Bob Hoskins sets out to clear the name of a cartoon rabbit murder suspect
7.40 Entertainment Tonight
8.00 Breaking Point (1989): Nazis kidnap and brainwash an army major. Starring Corbin Bernsen
9.40 Projector
10.00 Blades (1988): Horror comedy in which a golf course is menaced by a killer lawn mower
11.40 Mephisto Waltz (1971): Alan Alda is a young journalist who is possessed by the demonic soul of a dying concert pianist (Curt Jurgens)
1.35am Warlock (1989): Warlock Julian Sands escapes his earthly bonds, ending up in the house of Beverly Hills waitress Lori Singer
4.00 The Bedroom Window (1987): Steve Guttenberg has an affair with his boss's wife and finds himself the prime suspect for a series of murders. Ends at 5.50

EUROSPORT
● Via the Astra satellite.
5.00am International Business Report 5.30 European Business Today 6.00 DJ Kat 7.30 Eurobics 8.00 Handball: Ladies World Championships 9.00 Nordic Skiing World Championships 11.00 Eurobics 11.30 Tennis: Australian Hardcourt Championships 1.00pm European Judo 1.30 Australian Open Golf 3.30 Freestyle Skiing 4.00 Ford Ski Report 5.00 Mobil 1 Motorsport 5.30 Equestrianism: Volvo World Cup 6.30 Eurosport News 7.00 Nordic Skiing World Championships 8.00 World Cyclocross Championships 9.00 Embassy World Championship Darts 10.00 Fencing 11.00 Eurosport News 11.30 Handclimbing

SCREENSPORT
● Via the Astra satellite.
7.00am Spain Spain Sport 7.15 Ten Pin Bowling 8.30 US Pro Boxing 10.00 Stop — Notre Dame College Football 11.00 World Snooker Classics 1.00pm US Pro Ski Tour Slalom 1.45 Spain Spain Sport 2.00 Ice Racing Team World Championships 3.00 Ice Hockey NHL 1991 5.00 Stop — USWA Wrestling: The Main Event 8.00 Motorsport 8.00 Ice Skating 9.00 Top Team Spanish Football 11.00 US PGA AT&T Pebble Beach

MTV
● Via the Astra satellite.
Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

LIFESTYLE
● Via the Astra satellite.
10.00am Great American Gameshows 11.15 Coffee Break 11.30 Everyday Workout 11.50 The Good Food Show 12.15pm Sally Jessy Raphael 1.05 Style File 1.10 Search for Tomorrow 1.35 The Edge of Night 2.00 Divorce Court 2.25 Lifestyle Plus 2.35 The Best of Europe 3.05 Remington Steele 3.55 Lifestyle Tea Break 4.05 Mary 4.35 Great American Gameshows 6.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 8.00 Close 10.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 12.00 Satellite Jukebox

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
2.00pm Peter Ibbetson (1935): Fantasy romance about two partners who are separated by a jail sentence, but stay together in their dreams
3.30 The Movie Show
4.00 The Dark Secret of Harvest Home — Part One (1978): A New York family moves to a mysterious and ominous new village
6.00 Shootdown (1988): Based on a true story, Angela Lansbury sets out to find the truth behind the destruction of a Korean airline by a Soviet missile
7.40 The Movie Show
8.00 My Demon Lover (1987): Horror comedy about a woman who finds her ideal lover is not quite what he seems
10.00 The Naked Gun: Hilarious police spoof from the makers of the Airplane movies. Starring Leslie Nielsen and George Kennedy
11.30 Jaris (1975): Documentary about the life of the rock singer Janis Joplin
1.10am The Glass Menagerie (1987): Story of a southern family's hopes and dreams in Thirties America. Ends at 3.25

THE SPORTS CHANNEL
● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
1.30pm Racing Today 2.00 Football International 4.00 Football International 5.30 WWF Wrestling Challenge 6.30 This Is the Sports Channel 7.30 Basketball: Kingston in Europe 9.00 Boxing 10.00 On Wheels 11.00 Racing Today 11.30 Basketball

THE POWER STATION
● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
7.00am Twenty-one hours of rock and pop

RADIO

BBC Radio 1 FM Stereo and MW. 5.00am Gary King 6.30 Simon Mayo 9.00 Simon Bates 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Gary Davies 3.00 Steve Wright in the Afternoon 5.30 News '91 6.00 Jakki Brambles 7.00 Top of the Pops (with BBC1) 7.30 Mark Radcliffe's Evening Session 9.00 Classic Documentary: Guitar Greats — Steve Miller (r) 10.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00-2.00am Bob Harris

Radio 2 FM Stereo. 4.00am Steve Madden 6.00 Ken Bruce 7.30 Derek Jameson 9.30 Nanette Newman 11.00 Jimmy Young 1.05pm David Jacobs 2.00 Gloria Hunniford 4.00 Ronnie Hilton 5.05 Des Lynam 7.00 The News Huddlines 7.30 Wally Whyton 9.00 Paul Jones 9.45 Tom Mennard's Local Tales (r) 10.00 Chris Stuart 12.05am Jazz Parade 12.35-4.00 John Terrett with Night Ride

Radio 3 6.00am World Service: Newsdesk 6.30 Morning Edition 9.00 Schools 10.25 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 for toddlers 10.45 Keep Smiling Through: Memories of the Home Guard 11.00 Sport 12.02 Citizens (as Radio 4) 12.25 The Health Show: Men's health problems. Tel: 0345 909 693, incl 12.00 News; Sport 12.30pm The Ester's Digest: Scottish cuisine 1.00 Sport 1.05 As Radio 3 2.00 Sport 2.05 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (broadcast at 10.25am) 2.30 World Service: International Call 3.00 Sport 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Assignment 4.00 Sport 4.05 Los Tapicos: A portrait of a squatters' community on the Mexican/American border 4.35 Five Aside 7.20 The Year in San Fernando (Part 4) 7.35 Emil and the Detectives: Concluding the two-part dramatisation of Erich Kastner's classic story 8.05 In the News (broadcast at 10.00am) 8.30 Formula Five 9.00 The Golden Apples of the Sun: Short stories by Ray Bradbury — "The April Witch" and "The Fog Horn" 9.30 Eastern Beat, incl 10.00, 11.00 Sport 11.08 World Service: Global Concerns 12.23 Good Books 11.38 The World Today 11.53 Words of Faith 11.58-12.05am Sport

Radio 4 All times in GMT. 5.00am Morgenmagazin 5.35 News in German; Headlines in English and French 5.47 Press Review 5.52 Financial News 5.56 Weather and Travel News 6.00 Newsdesk 6.15 Gulf News Special 6.30 Londres Matin 6.59 Weather 7.00 World News 7.15 24 Hours 8.00 World News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 Good Books 8.30 John Peel 9.00 World News 9.15 Country Style 9.30 Financial News 9.38 Sports Roundup



Cold comfort: Dan McMullan, a sheep farmer, walking on a snow-covered hillside at Clogh Mills, Co Antrim, where Ulster's first wind generator opened yesterday

More snow on the way for icy Britain

By Michael Horsnell

BRITAIN shivered in the grip of the coldest snap for four years yesterday as MPs and charities for the elderly said the inflexibility of the cold weather payment system could put the lives of old people at risk.

With temperatures threatening to fall to -10C overnight, weathermen said that day-time temperatures could remain below freezing for several days with up to a foot of snow falling in the South-East.

Age Concern's criticism of cold weather payments followed a claim by Winter Action on Cold Homes, an umbrella group of charities, that hundreds could die this week if the government does not make cold weather payments automatic. It said: "The winter cull of Britain's frailest must cease."

Last night David Winnick, the Labour MP for Walsall North, called unsuccessfully for an emergency debate and said it was "downright scandalous" that needy pensioners were without cash help for emergency heating.

The cold spell has already triggered the £5-a-week payments in more than 20 areas throughout the country – mainly in Scotland, the North, and the West Country, but also as far into the South-East as Stansted, Essex.

Cold weather payments are only granted after a local weather station records an average temperature of 0C or lower over seven consecutive days. Those entitled may only claim once the period is completed. They are not paid automatically and have to apply to local social security offices. Payments are offered to social security claimants who have children under five, pensioners or the disabled. Pensioners get the money only if their savings are less than £1,000, while the other two groups are entitled only if they have less than £500 capital. In 1989-90 more than 44,400 such payments were made.

Age Concern, the charity for the elderly, said: "We are asking for the system to be made more flexible so money can be made more readily available and to a wider number of people."

Nicholas Scott, the social security minister, dismissed calls, however, for an increase in the payments. He said government help to the elderly had increased over the years and health department officials would be monitoring the cold to see that old people were not left vulnerable.

Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, said friends and neighbours should help the elderly stay warm. She told Britain's 12 million pensioners: "The key messages are: wrap up well, eat warming food and don't go out in the cold if you can avoid it."

Mrs Bottomley gave the advice as she made a joint visit with Mr Scott to the London headquarters of Help the Aged. The headquarters is the base for the Winter Warmth Line – which offers advice to the elderly on how to beat the chill. The line, launched in the wake of the cold snap four years ago, has already had 6,700 calls this winter – double the number in the previous 12 months. Trained Help the Aged advisers man the free service and are available to give people tips on diet, fuel debts and benefits. The freephone Winter Warmth number is 0800-289-404.

The Meteorological Office advised people to check with radio and television forecasts before venturing out. It predicted the next 36 hours will get even colder and that the weather will worsen with heavy snowfalls likely today and Friday. Heaviest falls are likely in the east but snow is also expected in other parts of England and Wales, especially central areas. In the South-East, driving snow reduced visibility on many roads to 50 yards. Some roads in Sussex were described as impassable and police were advising people against travelling unnecessarily.

Taste of Siberia, page 6

Political sketch

Lords, ladies and a question of breeding

AS I entered their Lordships' House, Viscount Astor was facing Lord Tordoff. Astor is a Tory minister, Tordoff a Liberal Democrat but what their exchange concerned I was too late to discover, arriving in time only to hear Lord Tordoff say "My Lords, we just go on, and on, and on."

"My Lords," replied the Viscount, "we *will* go on, and on, and on."

And they do. Lady Strange certainly does. Insofar as we dare shackle a free spirit such as Lady Strange to anything so earthbound as a political party, she is described as a Conservative: and hers was the next question. It was about sand eels. Apparently they are not breeding as they should in the Shetlands, and the bird population is going hungry.

The minister, Lord Strathclyde, replied that sand eels had been left to breed undisturbed since 1990, and it was not his fault (though he put it more politely) if the eels were not canoodling as vigorously as hoped. He was "consulting".

This did not satisfy Lady Strange. She blamed over-fishing. She wanted sanctuary for the eels' love-nests extended. As she reminded us, "the natural life-cycle of the sand eel is two years".

At this point their Lordships divided into three camps: those supporting the eels, those supporting the birds, and those supporting the fishermen. It was not an issue on which one could stay neutral.

Nor was it one on which the redoubtable Baroness Seear found herself without expertise. For the Liberal Democrats, Lady Seear blamed the birds. Or I *think* so. Her intervention, a blustery affair, appeared to include the words "over-eating by birds". Anyone who knows Lady Seear knows that an expedition to Shetland by the baroness to lecture a flock of seagulls on its dietary habits, or consult with sooty terns, is well within the bounds of possibility.

Lord Strathclyde regretted that "it is not part of the democratic process to consult those who do not necessarily have a vote". Lord Carmichael felt (if I understood him) that fishermen, who do have a vote, were entitled to sympathy, along with the eels and the birds.

Lord Grimond thought the feathered dimension had been over-simplified. Did birds eat only sand-eels? Lord Strathclyde (at cross-purposes with Lord Grimond) offered their Lordships a disquisition on the sex life of the sand eel. "It's the *eggs*," he muttered, brow furrowed, "the *larvae*". Something was hindering their production. "When we've discovered what it is, we will be able to see whether there's anything we can do about it." Stunned by his own candour, Lord Strathclyde sat down.

After this, Lord Hatch of Lusby took us to the Gulf. To describe Lord Hatch as "Labour" understates his commitment. He is a sort of nobleman's Dennis Skinner, who infuriates fellow peers by introducing into their House something called "politics" – a vulgarity from which their Lordships have taken refuge in the Upper Chamber.

His game yesterday was to torment Lord Caithness with an awkward question for the foreign office: whence came the evidence for HMG's belief that sanctions against Iraq had failed? Caithness, who answers with competent brevity, kept refusing to answer. Hatch kept refusing to withdraw. Their Lordships started a sort of aggressive mooing noise. As Caithness put Hatch finally down, the mooes subsided.

I was leaving when Lord Henley spoke: the unlucky minister who has had to pilot the ill-starred statutory sick pay bill, whipped on by his relative, the chief whip, and opposed by two more of his relatives, Lord Stanley and Lord Russell.

"My Lords," Lord Henley was saying as I left, "we are living in the real world."

Matthew Parris

Propaganda plays on Iraqi hunger

Continued from page 1

promise of full Arabic hospitality, security, personal safety and medical welfare.

"You will be able to return to your family as soon as the current situation that Saddam has put us all into is brought to an end. My brother Iraqi soldiers, it is an open invitation for you and your brother fighters which we hope that you will respond to when the chance allows you."

As the relentless, round-the-clock allied bombing campaign against Iraqi positions continues, shaking the ground miles south of the border, intelligence officers are optimistic that the steady trickle of Iraqis willing to give themselves up will soon become a flood.

"One problem is that they have their own minefield defences in front of them and politically motivated officers behind who are ready to shoot down anyone attempting to desert," the Saudi officer said. "Once the land war begins in earnest, we expect the numbers coming across to grow substantially."

Last week the allies launched their "Psychops" campaign by dropping five million explanatory leaflets about surrender. Frontline US troops also began lessons on how to recognise and accept Iraqi troops who wanted to give up. The course involved the teaching of rudimentary Arab phrases such as "put your hands up" and "throw down your weapon".

According to US commanders, there has been a growing morale problem among the Iraqi conscripts who man the bulk of the forward lines closest to the Saudi border. As well as the pressure of the bombing campaign, many have been restricted to one meal a day.

Saddam's 'secret missile'

Continued from page 1

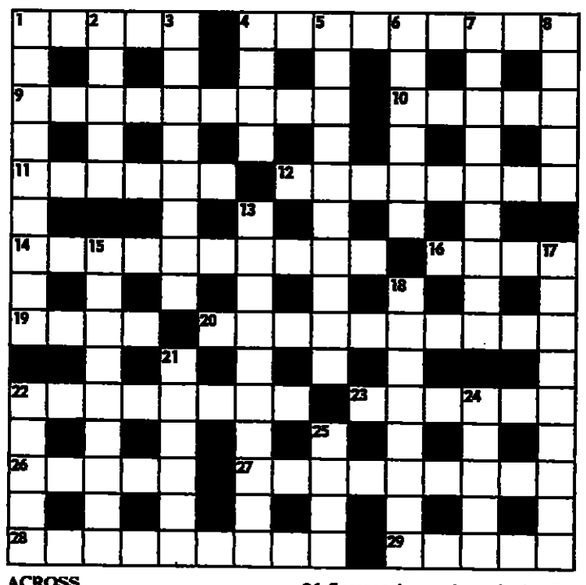
regard for human life and were as unpredictable as "mad dogs". He said it was "too early to tell" whether a ground offensive would be needed to drive Iraq from Kuwait.

However, a flotilla carrying more than 17,000 US marines, helicopters and landing craft moved northwards in the Gulf yesterday, while aircraft and the battleship Missouri pounded Iraqi troops.

Alexander Belonogov, the Soviet deputy foreign minister, who is in Tehran on a two-day visit, repeated Moscow's concern at a possible spread of the fighting and praised Iran's efforts to end the conflict peacefully, the Iranian news agency Irna reported.

Mr Belonogov also delivered a letter from the Soviet foreign minister, Alexandr Bessmertnykh, to his Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayati. The contents were not disclosed.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,523



ACROSS

1 Machinery put in the ground (5).
4 Three-handed murderer (9).
9 Workers banded together to raise a flag (5,4).
10 Beat Henry, who got within two points (5).
11 Polish, but sounds Scandinavian (6).
12 Seeing about pictures being put back in order (8).
14 In trouble for smothering bird in awful ketchup (2,3,5).
16 Found 25 players (4).
19 Initially some hesitate over purchases here (4).
20 Dressing a boy in something funny (5,5).
22 Jokes about an eastern subject from the east (8).
23 A sweet and charming thing to be (6).
26 Some tack – a piece of cake (5).
27 Raised something for gun carriage complete with cushions (9).
28 Date of Derby in dispute (9).
29 Swell stuff, we hear (5).

DOWN

1 Surplus of material used to make golfer's... (4-5).
2 ....dress with a stripe, say (5).
3 W Flint finally catches animal that's turned up (8).
4 Fish sometimes caught by oarsmen (4).
5 With appropriate treatment discontinued, suffer unpleasant results (4,3,3).
6 Seat that had overturned (6).
7 Being drunk, agreed on a non-alcoholic drink (9).
8 Taking the first lift (5).
13 Money bestowed on lost cause – a food additive (5,5).
15 Listening to a girl who's cheap (3,1,5).
17 Mistake at Epsom re owner of horse (3,6).
18 Qualms as worn-out horse strains at the bit noisily (8).
21 Secure some work where there are no tips (6).
22 Bill occupying position in Israel (5).
24 Not qualified to speak (5).
25 Woman had to discard (4).

Concise Crossword, page 13

Solution to Puzzle No 18,522

L	A	M	B	S	K	I	N		O		F		G	
	R		O		I		E	S	P	A	L	I	E	R
F	E	E	D		N		W		I		N		E	
	T		I	N	D	E	P	E	N	D	E	N	C	E
	H		C		L		O		E		G		O	
H	U	M	E	R	I		R	E	D	O	U	B	L	E
	S		R		N		T				E			R
T	A	K	I	N	G	S		P	A	R	S	L	E	Y
U			P			K		I		T		N		
G	R	A	P	H	I	T	E		R	A	R	I	T	Y
O			E		R		Y		S		I		R	
F	O	U	R	P	E	N	N	Y	O	N	E		E	
W		T		N		O		R		N	A	P	S	
A	L	A	R	M	I	S	T		N		N		O	
R		H			C		E	L	E	M	E	N	T	S

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

ARCHITECTONICS

COFFERING
a. A crawling buttress
b. Ceiling panelling
c. Beading wood with masonry

BRESSUMER
a. A supporting beam
b. Cobweb vaulting
c. A bricklayer's trowel

TOURELLE
a. A mortar board
b. A corbelled turret
c. A crown imperial dome

CRUCK
a. To prepare mortar
b. A large curved beam
c. Point of an ogee arch

Answers on page 18

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks
C. London (within N & S Circs.) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23 734
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 739

National traffic and roundworks
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Eastern England will have frequent snow showers with a spell of more continual snow, giving several inches in places. Western England and Wales will have some snow showers and over the Midlands a longer spell is likely. Scotland and Northern Ireland will also have some snow showers with the heaviest in the East. Temperatures will stay below freezing in many places and there will be a strong east to northeast wind. Outlook: staying very cold with heavy snow in many places

MIDDAY: b-thunder; d-drizzle; fg-fog; s-sun; sl-sleet; sn-snow; f-fair; c-cloud; r-rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	7	45	c	Majorca	13	55	s
Alicante	15	59	s	Malaga	18	61	s
Alex'dria	17	63	f	Malta	13	55	s
Algiers	15	59	f	Melb'rne	18	64	c
Amst'dm	-8	18	s	Mexico C*	18	64	f
Athens	11	52	f	Miami*	28	73	sn
Barcelna	11	52	s	Milan	-7	19	sn
Belgrade	-7	19	c	Montreal*	5	41	c
Berlin	-10	14	an	Moscow	-6	21	sn
Bermuda*	22	72	c	Munich	-13	9	f
Biarritz	3	37	c	Nairobi	27	81	s
Borde'x	1	34	s	Naples	8	43	c
Brussels	-8	18	f	N Delhi	21	70	s
Budapest	-4	25	s	N York*	21	70	s
B Aires*	28	78	s	Nice	9	32	sn
Cairo	19	66	c	Oslo	-7	19	sn
Cape Tn	23	73	s	Paris	-5	23	f
C'blanca	16	61	s	Peking	3	37	s
Chicago*	8	46	s	Perth	29	84	s
Ch'church	16	61	f	Prague	-12	10	s
Cologne	-10	14	s	Reykjvk	7	45	c
C'phagn	-1	30	f	Rhodes	14	57	s
Corfu	11	52	s	Rio de J	30	86	s
Dublin	3	37	f	Rome	9	48	f
Dubrovnik	7	45	c	S P'lozo*	14	57	c
Faro	15	59	c	Santiago*	33	91	s
Florence	-1	30	c	S Paulo*	28	82	c
Frankfurt	-10	14	s	Seoul	4	39	c
Funchal	18	64	f	Sing'por	30	86	f
Geneva	-4	25	f	Stkholm	-2	28	c
Gibraltar	15	59	f	Strasb'rg	-6	18	s
Helsinki	-7	19	s	Sydney	25	77	f
Hong K	19	64	c	Tangier	15	59	f
Innsbruck	-7	19	s	Tenerife	19	66	f
Istanbul	7	45	s	Tokyo	9	48	s
Jo'burg*	25	77	f	Toronto*	6	43	s
Karachi	27	81	c	Tunis	13	55	c
L Palmas	19	66	f	Valencia	15	59	s
Le Tquet	-4	25	an	Vanc'ver*	7	45	f
Lisbon	12	54	r	Venice	-4	25	c
Locarno	-3	27	c	Vienna	-10	14	s
L Angels*	17	63	s	Warsaw	-9	16	c
Luxembg	-11	12	f	Wash'ton*	21	70	s
Luxor	22	72	s	Wel'ton	19	66	c
Madrid	9	48	f	Zurich	-9	16	an

* denotes figures are latest available

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	.02	4	39	snow
Anglesey	1.1	-	4	39	bright
Aviemore	2.2	-	3	37	bright
Birmingham	0.1	-	2	36	cloudy
Blackpool	3.3	-	3	37	bright
Bournemouth	5.2	-	3	37	sunny
Bristol	3.7	-	3	37	bright
Buxton	1.7	-	0	32	bright
Cardiff	5.0	-	1	34	bright
Clacton	1.8	-	3	37	bright
Cromer	2.8	-	3	37	bright
Douglas	0.8	-	2	36	bright
Eskdalemuir	4.4	-	2	36	sunny
Exmouth	0.1	-	2	36	cloudy
Falmouth	-	-	5	41	dull
Glasgow	4.4	-	3	37	bright
Kinloss	1.0	-	5	41	cloudy
Leeds	0.3	-	3	37	bright
Lerwick	-	-	4	39	hail
London	0.1	-	3	37	cloudy
Lowestoft	2.8	-	2	36	bright
Manchester	3.2	-	4	39	bright
Mildenhall	3.1	-	2	36	bright
Morecambe	4.6	-	3	37	bright
Newcastle	X	-	3	37	snow
Newquay	-	-	5	41	cloudy
Nottingham	0.2	-	1	34	cloudy
Penzance	0.7	.01	6	43	cloudy
Plymouth	2.1	-	3	37	bright
Poole	5.1	-	4	39	sunny
Saunton Snd	7.5	-	3	37	sunny
Scarborough	1.2	.02	3	37	cloudy
Scilly Isles	1.5	.02	7	45	bright
Shanklin	X1	-	3	37	bright
St. Ives	-	-	5	43	cloudy
Stornoway	1.7	-	4	39	bright
Swanage	3.3	-	3	37	bright
Teignmouth	-	-	3	37	dull
Tenby	4.2	-	3	37	sunny
Thurso	-	-	3	37	cloudy
Torquay	-	-	3	37	cloudy
Weymouth	4.3	-	3	37	sunny
Wick	0.1	-	4	39	cloudy

Tuesday's figures are latest available

THE WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

YESTERDAY

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 0C (32F); min 6 pm to 6 am, -1C (30F). Humidity: 6 pm, 70 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.3 hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,027.9 millibars, falling. 1,000 millibars=29.53in.

EXTREMES

Tuesday: Highest day temp: Scilly Isles, 7C (45F); lowest day max: Buxton, Derbyshire, 0C (32F); highest rainfall: Kirkwall, Orkney, 0.04 in; highest sunshine: Saunton Sands, Devon, 7.5 hr.

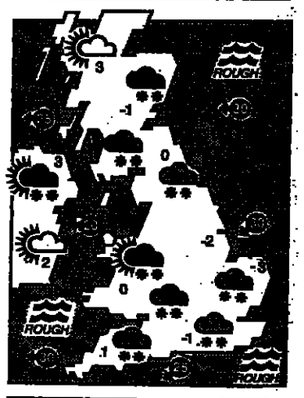
MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 1C (34F); min 6 pm to 6 am, -3C (27F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 3.6 hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 4C (39F); min 6 pm to 6 am, -4C (25F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.5 hr.





London 5.00 pm to 7.28 am
Bristol 5.10 pm to 7.38 am
Edinburgh 4.59 pm to 7.25 am
Manchester 5.08 pm to 7.43 am
Penzance 5.26 pm to 7.46 am

Sun rises: 7.30 am
Sun sets: 5.00 pm
Moon rises 2.25 am
Moon sets 10.11 am

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

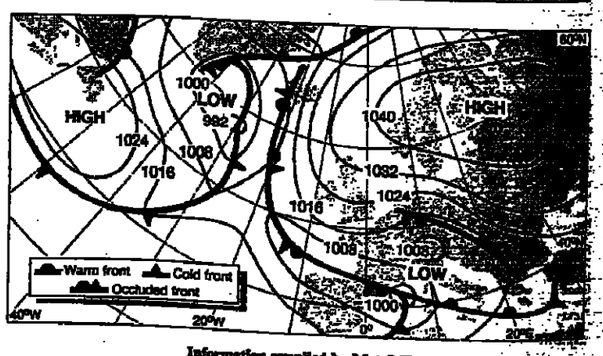
	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	3	37	c	Guernsey	0	32	sn
B'mingham	-1	30	sn	Inverness	3	37	c
Blackpool	1	34	sn	Jersey	0	32	sn
Bristol	1	34	f	London	-1	30	c
Cardiff	1	34	f	M'chester	0	32	f
Edinburgh	2	36	sn	Newcastle	0	32	sn
Glasgow	2	36	c	R'nldsway	2	36	sn

TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	7.02	6.1	7.03	6.0
Aberdeen	8.50	3.2	7.19	3.2
Avonmouth			12.05	10.2
Belfast	4.42	2.8	5.16	3.0
Cardiff	11.50	9.5		
Devonport	10.38	4.5	11.14	4.4
Dover	4.12	5.6	4.42	6.1
Falmouth	10.08	4.3	10.44	4.2
Glasgow	5.55	4.0	6.01	4.1
Heysham	4.48	3.4	5.19	3.1
Holyhead	3.38	4.4	4.09	4.3
Hull	11.38	5.9		
Ilfracombe	11.08	6.9	11.42	6.8
King's Lynn	11.43	4.8		
Leith	8.10	4.4	8.44	4.4

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Liverpool	4.20	7.4	4.48	7.2
Lowestoft	2.41	2.2	3.33	1.9
Margate	5.09	4.1	5.46	3.8
Milford Haven	11.29	5.3		
Newquay	10.28	5.4	11.03	5.2
Oban	10.43	2.9	11.58	2.9
Penzance	9.50	4.5	10.31	4.4
Portland	11.13	1.4	11.35	1.4
Portsmouth	5.10	3.9	5.48	3.7
Shoreham	4.07	5.1	4.46	4.8
Southampton	4.17	3.7	4.47	3.5
Swansea	11.34	7.5		
Tees	9.18	4.2	9.49	4.2
Wilton-on-Nze	4.48	3.6	5.18	3.5

Tide in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.



Information supplied by Met Office

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BUSINESS

Business Editor
John Bell

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 7 1991

Sterling tops $2 despite bank action

By Colin Narbrough, economics correspondent

THE dollar shrugged off fresh waves of concerted intervention by the central banks to fall to an historic low against the mark and allow the pound to climb above $2.00 for the first time since June 1981.

Only half an hour after the second wave of dollar buying for marks, spearheaded by the Federal Reserve Board, dealers in London saw the American currency fall to DM1.4520. It closed at a record low of DM1.4500, a drop of 1.20 pfennig from the previous finish.

The highly public intervention, which began mid-afternoon when the dollar hit DM1.4570, was interpreted as a smoothing action, not an attempt to halt the slide.

Neil MacKinnon, chief economist at Yamaichi Securities, said the intervention would be insufficient to prevent the currency falling further, given the fundamentals of the American economy and widening interest rate differentials with Europe. "It's all coming home to roost," he said.

Soon after the support action, Nicholas Brady, the American treasury secretary, appeared to try to undermine the dollar, telling the Senate budget committee that he would like to see lower interest rates.

Michael Boskin, the White House economic adviser, fuelled bearish market sentiment with remarks that he expected American prime rates to continue to decline, hinting at a cut of one percentage point.

As recession grips the United States, it was a half point cut in the American discount rate last Friday, the day after the Bundesbank raised German lending rates, that sent the dollar tumbling.

An early signal from the Bank of England through its money market operations made clear that the authorities were content with the present interest rate structure in Britain, still consistent with a 14 per cent base rate.

John Sheppard, senior economist at Warburg Securities, said the signal was "steady as you go".

The Bank sought to dash hopes of imminent cuts that were raised by remarks on Tuesday by John Major, the prime minister, about "sustained" cuts in interest rates.

Money market rates closed lower, easing back to their opening levels. The key three-month interbank rate was ⅛ softer at 13⅜/₁₆-13⅛ per cent.

This lent support to the pound, which ended at $2.0010, up nearly 2 cents from Tuesday's close. Against the mark it advanced nearly half a pfennig to DM2.9034, but remained at the bottom of the exchange-rate mechanism. Sterling's trade-weighted index gained 0.1 point to 94.5.

The cost of German unification will force a revaluation of the mark within the European monetary system this autumn, allowing the central rate for the pound to be lowered to DM2.80 within the exchange-rate mechanism, according to David Kern, chief economist at National Westminster Bank.

This lowering of sterling's central rate, in September or October, will be accompanied by a narrowing of the fluctuation bands to 2.25 per cent from the present 6 per cent.

Mr Kern expects the mark and Dutch guilder to be revalued by 2-4 per cent against the other ERM currencies in what would be the last realignment before the move to irrevocably fixed parities under European monetary union.

But Mr Kern sees no serious chance for Britain to devalue the pound unilaterally, especially as the authorities are still struggling to establish credibility within the ERM.

He described the current clamour for early interest rate cuts in Britain as "very unhelpful", but said that a half point cut in a month or so would be all right.

The "most serious" short-term problem was not the mark, but the weak dollar, Mr Kern said; as America is a large market for British exporters and a large part of British exports are dollar-denominated.

☐ Gold was fixed at $360.75 an ounce in London, its lowest afternoon fixing since July, after appearing to have lost its traditional status as a safe haven for investors in times of turbulence.

By the close it had rebounded $3.0, but remained $2.5 below Tuesday's finish and far below the $411 high of January 17 after allied planes started bombing Iraq. Platinum hit a new five-year low and silver hovered near to its lowest price for 16 years.



Light in the gloom: Derek Hunt, MFI chairman, says the increase in trading profits is particularly satisfactory

Davy to announce German disposal

By Martin Waller and Wolfgang Münchau

DAVY Corporation, the engineer, is today expected to announce the sale of its German business to Metallgesellschaft, the diversified industrial group, for between £70 million and £85 million.

The business comprises Zimmer, one of the world's leading makers of synthetic fibre plants, and Davy Bamag, a manufacturer of water treatment plant.

Davy has been the target of takeover speculation since last year's share price crash, with names such as Amec, the British contractor and engineer, and Mannesmann, the German company, mentioned.

The announcement came as something of an embarrassment at Davy's London headquarters, when it appeared on Reuters screens last night, because a German statement talked of a full takeover.

"The talks are far advanced. We expect to sign a deal any minute," insisted a Metallgesellschaft spokesman.

But Derek Hawkins, Davy's finance director, immediately denied the report, saying it was in talks with the German group relating to the sale of a subsidiary and not a complete takeover. He would give no further details except that a statement was expected soon.

Metallgesellschaft refused to comment further but said the Reuters report was correct.

At last night's closing price, Davy has a market capitalisation of more than £150 million. The report suggested a price for the deal of between DM200 million and DM250 million. It is, therefore, thought that the talks relate to the German operations only.

In Britain Davy has a range of engineering activities including an offshore oil rig fabrication business. It has been planning a number of disposals.

The share price has slumped from 262p in June to as low as 65p in November on the unveiling of some disastrous interim figures, featuring a £45 million write-off and a dropped dividend.

Davy has not always had the happiest of experiences in Germany. In 1988 it announced provisions totalling £17.5 million because of technical problems in building a flue gas desulphurisation plant in the then West Germany.

Jobs go as MFI sees difficult trading

By Our City Staff

MFI, the kitchen group that has £471 million of debt, says it is surviving despite the recession but is unlikely to have a good second half. The company cut 500 jobs last month.

MFI, which arranged a £95 million refinancing package in August 1989, made a pre-tax loss of £16.9 million in the six months to November 10, compared with an £8.8 million loss last time. Sales increased by 5.4 per cent to £321 million and trading profit by 5.1 per cent to £20.6 million but a £34.9 million interest charge wiped out trading profits.

Derek Hunt, the chairman, said that as long as turnover did not fall dramatically, the group could survive within the terms of the refinancing package and would not have to return to its bankers. He said MFI could survive a fall in turnover of up to 20 per cent.

Although sales in the second half started badly, the company, a management buyout from Asda in 1987, is still trading above last year's level. Seven stores were opened and eight were relocated, giving a 9 per cent increase in selling space. Like-for-like sales in the first half were flat.

Mr Hunt said: "The increase in trading profit is particularly satisfactory in view of the continuing adverse economic climate and the difficulties being experienced by the retail trade. We have responded to these conditions by vigorous cost controls."

The market for flat-pack kitchens has been most badly hit. More than 40 per cent are sold to people who have just moved home, and that market has dropped with the slump in house sales. Flat-pack kitchens account for 33 per cent of MFI's business.

Lilley approves BPB's £128m French takeover

By Our European Business Correspondent

THE go-ahead was given by Peter Lilley yesterday for the £128 million takeover by BPB Industries, Europe's biggest plasterboard maker, of the plaster and gypsum businesses of Poliet, the French construction group.

The trade secretary ruled against the advice of Sir Gordon Borrie, the director-general of the Office of Fair Trading, who had recommended the bid be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on competition grounds.

The last time a trade secretary overruled a referral advice by the fair trading office was in 1986, when Paul Channon, the then trade secretary, gave the go-ahead for the takeover of Screen Entertainment by Cannon. Mr Lilley's decision came after last year's monopolies enquiry into the industry, which concluded that the market was no longer an effective monopoly dominated by BPB after the entrance of two competitors.

BPB, however, remains the strongest company in the sector even though its market share had fallen from 96 per cent to 65 per cent over the last two years. The monopolies commission also suggested the situation should be monitored continuously. At the time, BPB had been freed from previous commitments to the government.

The trade department said Mr Lilley "agreed with the director-general's view that the arguments for reference were finely balanced, and noted that the merger enhanced BPB's dominant position."

Mr Lilley, however, concluded that the competition issues were not sufficient to justify a merger reference. But he asked Sir Gordon to look at the British plaster market and consider a reference under the monopolies provision of the Fair Trading Act 1973 if the concentration in the plasterboard industry was working against the public interest.

● **Sugar decision:** A proposed bid for Berisford International's sugar arm by Tate & Lyle was blocked by the monopolies commission yesterday because it was against the public interest. The decision is academic after Associated British Food's purchase of British Sugar at the new year.

Provisions raised to £22m at Telfos

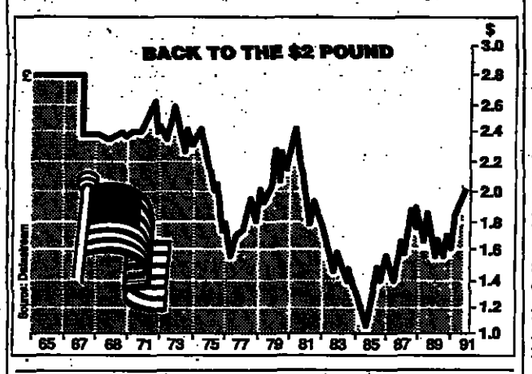
By Martin Barrow

TELFOS Holdings, the railway engineer for which William Cook has bid £36 million, has provided another £13 million against investments and guarantees, raising the total level of provisions to £22 million for last year.

The latest provisions follow publication of a report by Price Waterhouse, the company's auditor, which gives warning that it cannot advise with certainty on appropriate levels of provision because of the illiquid nature of the investments and adverse market conditions.

Shares in Telfos plunged 41p to 57p after returning from suspension, casting doubts over the current offer by William Cook, which was originally worth 114p a share. William Cook's advisers were last night studying the Price Waterhouse report and are expected to decide the future of the bid before tomorrow's first closing date. William Cook shares rose 1p to 209p.

Telfos also revealed a pre-tax loss of £300,000 for 1990, against profits of £5.3 million the previous year, after incurring a £3.4 million deficit on investment dealing. However, operating profits fell from £5.09 million to £3.4 million on turnover up from £44 million to £62.21 million, casting doubts on the quality of the company's £100 million order book.



Reserves revealed at Union

By Neil Bennett
Banking Correspondent

UNION Discount has become the first discount house in the City to reveal its inner reserves and report its profits and balance sheet fully. The announcement came as the firm reported a 54 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £7.81 million last year.

Union's next annual report will show its inner reserve of £6.61 million, which has now been reclassified as a general bad debt provision. Graeme Gilchrist, the chairman, said the move had been in response to pressure from the City and shareholders.

There was a 1.07p rise in earnings per share to 57.02p. Union is paying a final dividend of 23.5p, making 35p for the year, a 6 per cent increase.

Comment, page 23

Gulf war damages duty-free business

Allders stores seek refinancing

By Gillian Bowditch

ALLDERS, the department store and duty-free group that was bought out by its management from Hanson for £224 million in May 1989, is seeking a refinancing from its banks. Concern about the group has been mounting for weeks.

Allders, which has 11 department stores in southern England, as well as duty-free shops at Heathrow and Gatwick airports, has called in Touche Ross, its accountant, to implement a large-scale cost-cutting exercise.

The company is in refinancing talks with its original backers, which include Prudential Venture Capital, the coal and railway workers' pension funds, 3i, Chemical Bank, National Westminster and Hambro Magan.

Hanson still has a 5 per cent stake, in addition to providing £40 million of the debt financing. About 100 Allders managers took a 20 per cent stake in the group at the time of the buyout.

Suppliers to Allders have been worried for several weeks now and some have not been paid for deliveries, despite asking the company for initial cash. The final straw for the group has been the downturn in duty-free sales because of to the slump in airport traffic since the Gulf war. Allders' duty-free business generates cash for the group. Other retailers have been experiencing sales slumps of up to 75 per cent in airport terminal shops.

Allders has a strong asset backing with properties estimated to be worth about £100 million by Verdict, the market research group.

All the properties, apart from the one in Basildon, Essex, are freehold or long leasehold. None has been actively marketed by the group, but parties that were interested in acquiring parts of the group when the original Hanson deal was done are believed to have been approached again.

The strong property portfolio and the fact that Pru Venture Capital and 3i both have non-executive directors on Allders' board puts it in a strong position to achieve its refinancing, although banks are considerably less keen to do these deals than they were a year ago.

Allders' balance sheet for the year to September 1989 showed net debt of £135 million. In that year, the group made trading profits of £9.4 million, down from £15.4 million the previous year, on sales of £274 million, down from £284 million. Capital expenditure in 1989 was £5.8 million.

Allders has been hit by high interest rates, the recession and the uniform business rate, which has added 20 per cent a year to the group's rates bill. Allders is the second department store to have run into trouble in the past week, after Lewis's called in the receivers.

FT 30 Share
1718.8 (–6.0)

FT-SE 100
2194.8 (–7.2)

New York Dow Jones
2808.91 (+20.54)*

Tokyo Nikkei Avge
23952.04 (+130.47)

MONEY MARKETS

RISES:

Hambros	245p (+7p)
Kleinwort Benson	311p (+26p)
SG Warburg	351½p (+14p)
Vaux Group	187p (+7p)
MAM	470p (+10p)
Micro Focus	810p (+7p)
Proudfoot Alexander	281½p (+15p)
Hillsdown	194p (+14p)
Independent	235p (+22p)
Antofagasta	397½p (+20p)

FALLS:

De La Rue	382½p (–18p)
RMC Group	639p (–15p)
Hawker Siddeley	441p (–17p)
Ropner	122p (–10p)
Laporte	496½p (–8p)
Union Discount	559p (–40p)
Broken Hill	394½p (–12p)
News Corp	257p (–16p)
Sotheby's	700p (–13p)
General Accident	483½p (–11p)

Closing prices

INTEREST RATES
London: Bank Base: 14%
3-month interbank 13⁹/₁₆-13⅛%
3-month eligible bills:13⁹/₁₆-13⁹/₃₂%
US: Prime Rate 9%
Federal Funds 6%*
3-month Treasury Bills 5.94-5.93%*
30-year bonds 107¹²/₃₂-107²⁷/₃₂*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $2.0010	£: $1.9995*
£: DM2.9045	$: DM1.4510*
£: SwFr2.4683	$: SwFr1.2345*
£: FFr9.8980	$: FFr4.9420*
£: Yen258.93	$: Yen129.33*
£: Index94.5	$: Index89.4
ECU £0.707563	SDR £0.729708
£: ECU1.413301	£: SDR1.370411

GOLD
London Fixing:
AM $360.90 pm-$360.75
close $362.35-362.85 (£181.35-181.85)
New York:
Comex $361.45-361.95*

NORTH SEA OIL
Brent (Mar) ..... $20.10 bbl ($19.70)
* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.535	2.495
Austria Sch	21.40	20.00
Belgium Fr	62.50	58.50
Canada $	2.42	2.27
Denmark Kr	11.57	10.97
Finland Mkk	7.42	6.97
France Fr	10.27	9.62
Germany Dm	3.095	2.895
Greece Dr	330	310
Hong Kong $	16.00	15.20
Ireland Pt	1.14	1.07
Italy Lira	2280	2140
Japan Yen	271	255
Netherlands Gld	3.41	3.20
Norway Kr	11.85	11.15
Portugal Esc	267	251
South Africa Rd	5.55	4.95
Spain Pta	188.50	178.50
Sweden Kr	11.38	10.70
Switzerland Fr	2.585	2.415
Turkey Lira	6400	5800
USA $	2.095	1.965
Yugoslavia Dnr	36.00	27.00

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 129.9 (December)

GUESS WHERE
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
ARE SO GOOD THERE'S
A 98% STRIKE-FREE
RECORD?

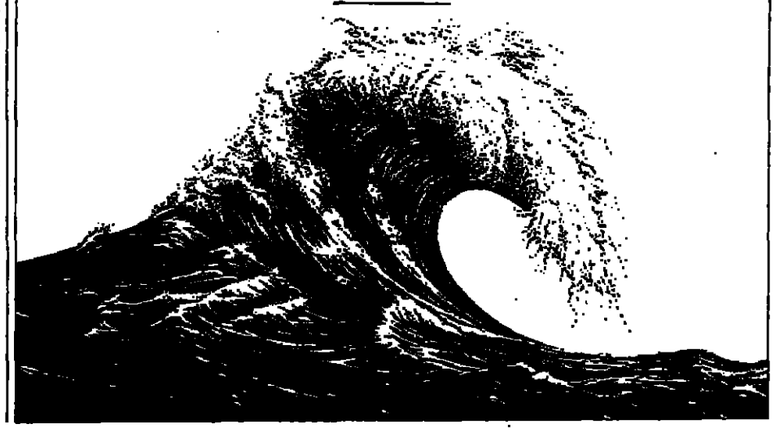
It's an area ripe for investment, where 14,000 new businesses have opened since 1986, net output per head is consistently higher than the national average and where there's a Development Corporation committed to creating business opportunities.

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MDC



Lloyd's plan to seize more French business

By ANGELA MACKAY

LLOYD'S, the international insurance market, is planning to seize a large slice of the French insurance market over the next few years.

This resolve was declared by David Coleridge, the chairman of Lloyd's, in Paris yesterday.

Even though three-quarters of the Lloyd's business is sourced overseas, Lloyd's has only managed to secure less than 1 per cent of the French market, deriving about Fr600 million annually in premium income.

Mr Coleridge, in his address to the Assure Expo, said: "In future, I hope that we may come to be regarded not merely as an offshore repository for the large, unusual and difficult to place risk, but be accepted for what we are, an integral and vital element of the French insurance market."

Mr Coleridge said that after the freedom of services directive that came into force in July, Lloyd's potential market in Europe had increased markedly, considering that the Continent's population of 350 million had a per capita expenditure on insurance that was 41 per cent less than that in America.

Mr Coleridge pointed out that the tide had started to turn for Lloyd's and that rates were hardening in the current renewal season that would hopefully create a "more realistic rate structure" this year.

Referring to the hostilities in the Gulf, Mr Coleridge said there was an increased demand for war risk insurance that "few other markets were either willing or able to provide".

This week, Lloyd's introduced a policy covering terrorist attacks or sabotage related to the Gulf war that members of the market's war committee yesterday said had generated considerable interest from the corporate sector, especially among American-based companies.

However, no such policies have yet been written.

Lloyd's said the conflict in the Middle East had given rise to widespread demand for "explicit coverage for malicious damage both at home and abroad".

As a result, the Lloyd's war committee had agreed to allow underwriters who wish to provide this particular form of cover to do so under a separate policy.

Recent messages that have been transmitted on Baghdad Radio have heightened concern of an escalation of terrorist attacks against Western targets.

War premiums fell by as much as 80 per cent in some instances, for example, hull premiums, as the allied forces declared air and sea supremacy in the Gulf, according to a spokesman.

Throgmorton net asset value falls

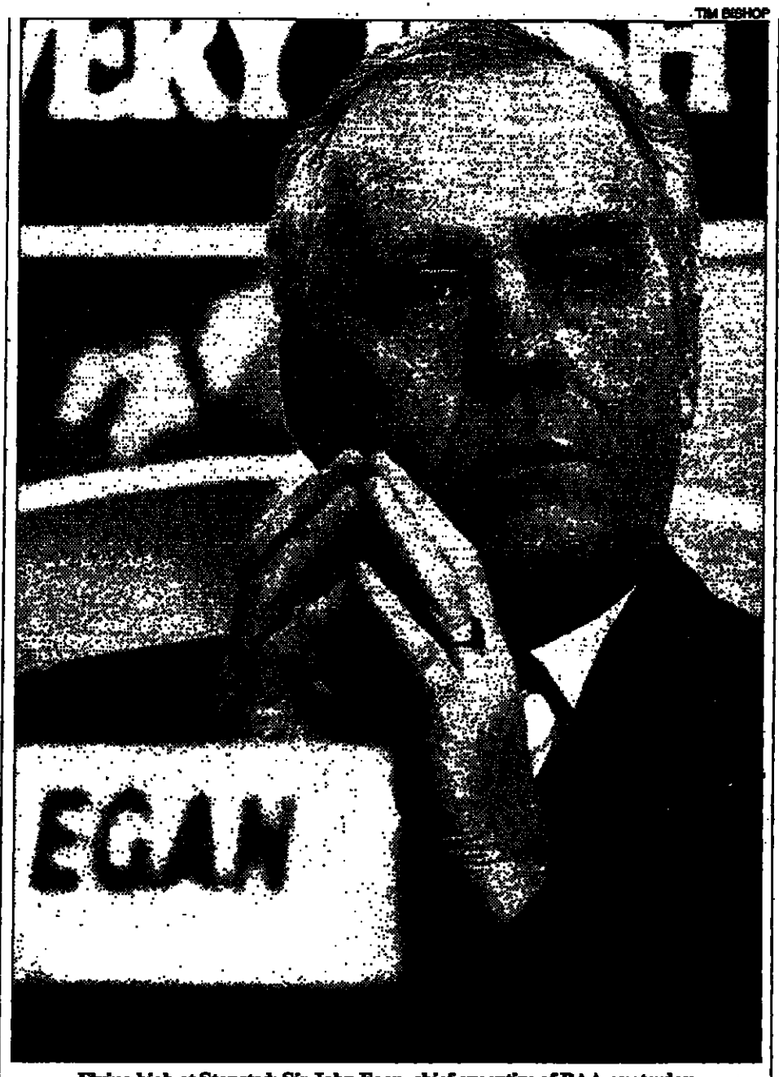
By OUR CITY STAFF

THE Throgmorton USM Trust, an investment trust that specialises in the Unlisted Securities Market, increased pre-tax income from £1.05 million to £1.1 million in the year to end-December, although the net asset value fell to 103.1p (151.5p).

Gross income was lower at £1.47 million, against £1.48 million. Earnings per share slipped from 4.16p to 3.71p. The total dividend is improved to 3.65p (3.3p).

Hugh Sykes, the chairman, said high interest rates had had a damaging effect on sentiment towards smaller companies, while bank credit restrictions caused investors to question the financial viability of some small companies.

TIM BISHOP



Flying high at Stansted: Sir John Egan, chief executive of BAA, yesterday

Ryanair flights for Stansted

By PHILIP PANGALOS

RYANAIR, the independent Irish airline, is boosting Stansted's new £400 million terminal by transferring most of its operations from Luton to the Essex airport.

The news is most welcome to Stansted. However, the airport, which expects 1.5 million passengers this year, has only secured 15 per cent of available slots, while the timing of the opening of the new terminal, next month, has been hit by unfortunate external circumstances.

Sir John Egan, chief executive of BAA, said that the combined effects of the recession and the Gulf war are likely to mean that Stansted's expected break even, which was due in 1994, is likely to be put back by one year.

Traffic at Gatwick suffered a 19 per cent fall in the first two weeks after the start of hostilities in the Middle East, while Heathrow's figures were down 24 per cent. Sir John said: "There has been no further drop off."

Sir John put on a brave face and said: "People will become used to the war. If the war goes on people will really have to make journeys."

Stansted is negotiating with other airlines, including American Airlines.

Ryanair will transfer its operations from April 29. The carrier is being offered prime slots and will be able to operate "ideal departure times". P J McGoldrick, Ryanair's chief executive, said: "The decision to operate into Stansted represents the culmination of a 12-month turnaround by the airline."

Ryanair made losses of Ir£6 million (£5.47 million) in 1988 and Ir£4.5 million in 1989. Mr McGoldrick said that last year's losses are expected to be in the region of the year before last, although he stressed: "We expect to make a profit in 1991."

Ryanair will split 50/50 between Stansted and Luton.

Pan Am expects new loan of $100m

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

A FRESH financial lifeline is expected to be thrown to Pan Am Corporation, which cut 4,000 jobs and some European flights on Tuesday. The airline said it expected imminent access to a $100 million loan from Bankers Trust and United Airlines.

The loan has already been sanctioned by the bankruptcy court, but is conditional on the American transport department approving Pan Am's sale of its London routes to United Airlines for $290 million. A spokesman for Pan Am said: "We expect approval later today (Wednesday)."

Analysts say the loan is crucial. When filing for bankruptcy protection on January 7, Pan Am had only $27 million in cash which it said would last just a few days. A short-term loan of $50 million by Bankers Trust and United appears to have lasted almost five weeks amid a sharp fall in passenger traffic. The new loan is key to Pan Am's survival while it awaits approval from the British aviation regulators.

Sale of its five routes into Heathrow was agreed with United more than three months ago, but America and Britain are still no nearer to reaching an agreement which might grant approval. A resolution of those talks hinges on the American government giving British Airways greater access to the domestic market. Talks broke up in anger last week and an American government spokesman said: "As far as I know there are no further talks arranged. I'm sure there are some planned." The Pan Am spokesman added: "We are still confident that the differences can be resolved."

Pan Am has cut more than one in five jobs since last autumn. The airline's European bookings are down between 20 per cent and 50 per cent from last year, with the largest reductions in travel to London and Rome. Total transatlantic bookings have fallen 15 per cent since the Gulf war began. A Pan Am spokesman refused to rule out more cuts.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Management to buy Reedpack division

SVENSKA Cellulosa, the Swedish forestry group, has agreed to a Kr375 million (£34 million) management buyout of Reedpack Plastics Group, a division of Reedpack, the paper and packaging group. Reedpack Plastics, which employs 900 staff in Britain, makes plastic containers and has sales of over £50 million per year.

Svenska said the division is a non-core activity for Reedpack, which it bought last year. The management team received financial backing from CIN Venture Managers on behalf of its clients, which are British Coal, Barclays Bank Pension Funds and British Rail. Payment will be made in two tranches, 60 per cent at completion and the balance after three years. Reedpack was also formed as a result of MBO of the packaging and paper interests of Reed International for £609 million in 1988.

Redland for Yugoslavia

REDLAND, the building materials group, is defying general pessimism about Yugoslavia's future by setting up a joint venture firm with two local companies in Slovenia, the Yugoslav republic most determined to gain independence. The joint venture company will manufacture concrete roof tiles for the Slovenian and Croatian markets from May but it might expand later.

Irish Sugar lifts profits

IRISH Sugar, the semi state-owned sugar manufacturing to food processing group, increased pre-tax profits from Ir£17.1 million (£15.65 million) to Ir£22 million in the year to end-September. Turnover, boosted by acquisition, advanced to Ir£271.4 million (Ir£215.6 million). Earnings per share rise to 27.8p (23.4p). There was an extraordinary charge of Ir£5.93 million.

RJR pact on pensions

RJR Nabisco Holdings, the food and tobacco group, has agreed with the Transport and General Workers Union to resolve a dispute over control of £30 million surplus funds held in a pension scheme. A union statement said the agreement would give 72.5 per cent of the surplus to the pensioners and the rest to RJR.

The dispute arose after RJR sold its European operations, including Huntley & Palmers, Peek Frean and W&R Jacob, the British biscuit manufacturers, to BSN of France two years ago. RJR Nabisco had retained control of the pension funds.

Babcock sells consultancy

BABCOCK Prebon, the money broker and lease packager, has sold its pensions consultancy business to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation for £3.25 million.

The company is keeping assets worth £700,000 from the business to sell separately. The money will be used to start repaying debts, which Babcock renegotiated with banks last year.

Kingsgrange buyout plan

SHARES in Kingsgrange, the toiletries manufacturer, rose 9p to 39p after senior management revealed it made an approach to bid for the company at a premium to a mid-market price of 27.5p. The management team, led by Roger Whitehead, chief executive, and James Nelson, non-executive chairman, is supported by Foreign & Colonial Ventures.

Norwegian oil licences

NORWAY will offer 22 oil and gas exploration licences on 34 offshore blocks today to firms that applied under the thirteenth licensing round. The round comprises 52 blocks and parts of blocks, 22 in the North Sea, five off mid-Norway and 25 in the Barents Sea. Some blocks received multiple applications, others none.

Details of which blocks were offered will not be published until the firms have replied, but Norwegian firms Den Norske Stats Oljeselskap, Norsk Hydro and Saga Petroleum will all be offered blocks, the oil ministry said.

Complex changes at Burns-Anderson

By MARTIN WALLER

THE Burns-Anderson Group, the recruitment and financial services business, has arranged a complex restructuring involving the cancellation of its potential earn-out payments and the disposal of a non-core business.

Burns-Anderson, where Sir John Harvey-Jones was chairman until last year, announced the sale of a small bank this week.

The group has now effectively torn up its earn-out agreement with Steve Kelland, who sold his pensions and investment business to the group in 1988, which would have paid him as much as £1.7 million in new shares.

Because its current share price of 6½p, a tenth of the level a year ago, is below the 10p nominal value, Burns-Anderson would have been unable to issue the shares at that price. Instead, Mr Kelland will take £200,000 in cash and shares worth an additional £105,000 and also becomes entitled to 20 per cent of future profits in his business.

Another subsidiary, Ultimate Response, involved in direct marketing, is being sold back to the vendors in return for £500,000 in dividend payments already made.

Burns-Anderson, however, will continue to be owed £160,000 by Ultimate. Potential earn-out payments, totalling £10.18 million maximum, will not now be paid.

The group currently consists of two recruitment agencies, a financial advisory network and a small stockbroker, which Burns-Anderson is trying to sell.

Company doctor for Stakis



At his fingertips: Sir Lewis ready to bring his remedial skills to the aid of Stakis

SIR Lewis Robertson, one of Scotland's best-known company doctors, is to be chairman of Stakis, the Glasgow hotels and leisure group, following the retirement of Sir Reo Stakis, the founder (Martin Waller writes).

The announcement was met with relief in the stock market, which marked the share price up 3p to 39p on the news. Concern has grown about mounting debts at Stakis, £151 million at the last financial year end, and its exposure to two of the most troubled sectors of the economy. The company stressed that Sir Lewis, aged 69, was not chosen because of his skills as a company rescuer, but Neil Chisman, the finance director, admitted: "He's joining on the basis that the skills you need for that are going to be very useful to us. He will be reviewing businesses we are in and reviewing our structure and generally putting a firm hand on the tiller."

Four senior executives quit the company in October after a boardroom row. Asked if there were to be any more board changes after the new chairman's appointment, Mr Chisman said: "That would be for him to look at."

Sir Reo, aged 78 this year, opened his first restaurant in Glasgow in 1947. Andros, his son, remains as managing director.

Sir Lewis's rescues include Triplex Lloyd, the engineer, Borthwicks, the meat group, and Lilley, the builder.

Bad debt rise fails to halt Lawrie

By NEIL BENNETT BANKING CORRESPONDENT

DUNCAN Lawrie, the private bank, increased pre-tax profits by 4 per cent to £1.09 million last year despite a rise in bad debts.

Nick Grant, the chairman, said there had been a small increase in the bank's bad debt provisions, although the difference was slight since the bank's loan book is worth only £20 million.

Duncan Lawrie suffered a fall in assets in London during the year, partly because of the strength of sterling, which encouraged investors to move funds abroad.

Duncan Lawrie also manages deposits for names at Lloyd's, and the rise in resignations there also prompted withdrawals.

The bank's pensions department grew with the acquisition of Patrick MacNamee and Associates, while the investment department's assets under management grew to £50 million during the year.

Duncan Lawrie's offshore subsidary, in the Isle of Man, increased profits by 41 per cent.

Birse Group ahead at £5.55m despite making provisions

By MARTIN BARROW

BIRSE Group, the construction and plant hire company, increased pre-tax profits from £5.24 million to £5.55 million in the half-year to the end of October after providing £2.36 million against development financing in its housebuilding division. The company has also written off £500,000 in bad debts owed by two private property developers.

Operating profits rose from £5.09 million to £6.20 million. Birse netted £1.71 million in interest earned on cash deposits of more than £30 million, unspent since the company's 1989 flotation.

Earnings fell from 6.8p a share to 5.6p, reflecting a near 29 per cent increase in the number of shares in issue. But the interim dividend is increased from 1.5p a share to 1.65p.

Despite the solid performance, Peter Birse, the chairman, gave a warning that trading conditions in the industry would deteriorate further unless there was a quick reduction in interest rates.

"It is very bad out there," he said. "Fortunately we are in a strong position, but unless the Chancellor offers some relief more firms are going to come to grief. You cannot squeeze people with high interest rates for three years."

Turnover rose from £105 million to £168 million, helped by a 60 per cent growth in business volumes in Birse Construction, the main subsidiary. Margins were maintained "at a reasonable level" by putting pressure on suppliers to cut their own costs but scope for similar action was now limited, said Mr Birse.

Profits from plant hire, which is engaged in civil engineering and offshore activities, were down by 20 per cent.

Birse Homes made further unspecified losses on operations in the Southwest, where building has been delayed on about 220 plots until the market shows signs of recovery.

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East Germans await their boom

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

FOR the men and women in the dole queues of Berlin, Rostock and Dresden there is little consolation from the German government about their economic prospects.

It was confirmed yesterday unemployment and short time work in January continued to rise and now affects one third, or 2.6 million, of eastern Germany's 8 million working population. Of those, about 1.4 million are effectively unemployed. A year ago unemployment was negligible.

Last July, the people of the old East Germany were told nobody would suffer through unification and the introduction of the deutschmark. Soon after, when they did suffer as prices rose, they were told by the government that this was only a short-term phenomenon and by this spring the long-awaited economic boom would begin. The region, to quote a Bundesbank euphemism, was going through "creative destruction".

Destruction it is, but there is so far no evidence of much creativity in the process. On the surface, East German unemployment, at 750,000, in January, or 8.6 per cent of the workforce, is about the same as the West European average, even though it represents a rise of 100,000 since December. But the figures are misleading.

A large proportion of unemployment is concealed under the cover of the so-called short-time working regulations. They include a controversial zero-hours clause, which allows employers to lay off staff who are then entitled to some compensation from the government. These people do not fall into the dole count. Short-term unemployment now stands at 1.9 million, of which about one-third work little or not at all.

During this year, the situation will inevitably become worse. The Treuhandanstalt, the Berlin privatisation agency, has still to make some tough decisions about company closures.

The agency's original estimate that a third of the 8,000 former combines will have to close still holds. But only a few dozen companies have so far closed. When the closures finally come, probably in the middle of the year, the unemployment figures will soar.

Also in the middle of the year, about 500,000 civil servants of the former regime will be out of a job as their contracts come to an end. By then East Germany might have reached a level of about 3 million unemployed.

There is another aspect. It is estimated that every 1 million unemployed cost the German government about DM10 billion in benefits a year, and this puts further strains on the budget deficit, which is estimated to reach DM140 billion this year.

The Bundesbank has already raised interest rates by half a per cent. If the trend continues, monetary policy could be tightened further, irrespective of the many protestations from Bonn or abroad.

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Lateral thinking for tax cuts

COMMENT

The conventional view, as so often at this time of year, is that the Chancellor will have little room for manoeuvre in next month's Budget. There is, however, a glimmer of hope. Economic gurus polled by *Economic Affairs*, organ of the Institute of that name, nearly all favour cutting some taxes, notably corporation tax. An overall tax-cutting Budget is favoured from such diverse standpoints as those of Lloyds Bank's centrist Christopher Johnson, sound money pessimist Stephen Lewis and Liverpool's Patrick Minford, a nostalgic fan of Reaganomics.

Some useful lateral thinking has been going on. Inevitably, this all stems from sterling's entry into the ERM and the unexpected short-term effects.

Before entry, it was widely understood that the exchange rate against the mark would govern interest rate movements. If the government wanted to make independent policy moves, it would therefore have to go back to a more active fiscal policy instead of Nigel Lawson's desired steady, balanced budget. That was the main reason true monetarists opposed ERM entry.

The CBI and others expected the pegging of sterling to pave the way for a rapid fall in interest rates as the risk went out of the currency. To keep up the fight against inflation, the government could if necessary adopt a tougher fiscal policy.

Things did not work out quite like that. The depressed domestic economy cries out for more interest rate cuts but, according to Norman Lamont's thinking, the exchange rate has not allowed them, for fear they might have to be reversed if the pound fell to the bottom of its ERM range and markets scented devaluation.

The idea of offsetting transitional monetary and fiscal policies can, however, be applied in reverse. Tax cuts can help the economy even if interest rate cuts cannot. If there are still worries over domestic inflation, then the cuts could be concentrated in non-inflationary areas such as corporation tax or, more controversially, excise duties or employers national insurance contributions.

In the looking-glass world of the foreign exchanges, which are now driven by short-term financial flows rather than trade, this can produce some odd results. Tax cuts could even allow faster interest rate cuts.

As Professor Minford points out, the experience of the Reagan years was that a rise in the budget deficit from tax cuts strengthened the dollar rather than weakened it "essentially because the markets expect the greater strength of the economy after tax cuts to hold interest rates up for longer". If the focus on future interest rate cuts were abandoned in favour of other means of reviving the economy, sterling might well rise strongly within the ERM, thus facilitating quick cuts in interest rates as well.

This would not merely be sleight of hand. The exchange markets fear the prospect of a long and progressive reduction in sterling interest rates. The deeper Britain's recession, the further interest rates might fall.

Judging from John Major's latest repetition of his plan for a sustained drop in interest rates at some future date, this lateral thinking has, however, cut no ice at No 10 Downing Street or in the Budget preparations next door.

Open secret

There is a sense of anticlimax now Union Discount has opened its coffers for public view. A grand City institution like Union, whose rooms are lined with oil paintings and antique clocks, might have had more interesting secrets than a £6.6 million emergency reserve.

Nevertheless, Union's disclosure is the writing on the wall for all discount houses, which have to follow under European laws by 1993. Until now, they have been the epitome of discretion.

Interim results are unheard of. A house simply declares a dividend and makes a cryptic comment on trading. Annual profit figures can be misleading since they are smoothed by transfers to, or from, inner reserves.

Merchant banks and discount houses were allowed this dispensation for the good of their depositors and shareholders. It was assumed that investors would be frightened by the violent cycles in profits, and this would lead to an unacceptable volatility in shares prices. This in turn could lead to loss of confidence, and at worst a run on desposits. So long as dividends rose in an uninterrupted line, ran the argument, ignorance was bliss.

The argument holds little water, and thankfully the European Commission has had nothing to do with it. In their desire for secrecy, the directors of the merchant banks and discount houses conveniently forgot that shareholders are in fact the firms' owners. They are entitled to full information about their property.

Shareholders in the clearing banks have had an abundance of bad news in the past decade and stuck to their investment. Depositors for their part are rarely swayed by an insitution's financial performance. Most would sooner put faith in the silent hand of the Bank of England regulators and the Deposit Protection Scheme.

Union Discount has finally come clean. Merchant banks like Schroders and Hambros, and other dicount houses like Gerrard & National should reveal themselves willingly, before the European Commission forces them to strip.

Training gets tougher in the race for world sales

"The British workforce is a sleeping giant. Or, perhaps more precisely, a giant whose energies and capacities are too rarely fully realised or released at work. Those energies are left to find release in other ways — programming the video recorder, or improving the performance of cars or motorbikes."

Behind this slightly disparaging perspective put forward by Sir Norman Fowler when still employment secretary lies something crucial to Britain's economic future: that the workforce is undertrained, and therefore underskilled — and that makes British companies and the British economy uncompetitive in world markets.

This is not a new problem. In 1868, a royal commission on schools said that unless general and technical education was improved, "we shall gradually but surely find that our superiority in wealth and perhaps in energy will not save us from decline".

Britain's training problem used to be largely ignored, solveable by poaching skilled staff from other employers. Now training is a real issue for companies, and a political football which prompts bitter inter-party argument, as yesterday's Commons debate on the subject demonstrated.

Training is big business. Government estimates suggest that about £35 billion, roughly equivalent to 8 per cent of total GDP, is spent on it annually — £20 billion of that by employers. Big figures, though at company level it looks perhaps less impressive. Peter Wickens, personnel director at Nissan's motor plant in the Northeast, says his training budget for 1990 was £1.5 million. Even for a Japanese company with a high training commitment, that is no more than £600 per employee.

In Germany, all 16-year-olds go into some form of education or training. In America, 94 per cent go into it full-time. In Japan, it is 92 per cent. In Britain, it is 50 per cent: 100,000 young people every year go into work with no training. Such comparisons, coupled with skill shortages across all industries flowing from the near-universal abandonment of training in the 1980-81 recession, have led the government to act.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, talks in radical terms of the government's two training objectives: "We have to revolutionise the attitude of employers, and we have to revolutionise the attitude of individuals. Both these revolutions are under way."



Sir Norman Fowler: slightly disparaging perspective

For individuals, the government is setting up a system of recognised national vocational qualifications as a means of increasing skills. Also, from April, a new scheme of training credits will be piloted in ten areas round the country. This will offer 32,000 young people vouchers worth about £1,000 to buy training from an employer or recognised training provider. Treasury ministers are also considering industry's call for a tax allowance as an incentive to study for a recognised training qualification.

For employers, the government is promoting a training quality programme called Investors in People (IIP). But its most radical step has been to adopt an American idea and, in effect, privatise training with the creation of 82 locally-based, business-led Training and Enterprise Councils.

Putting the running of training out to the 1,200 business directors of Tecs is a gamble: training quality, if not closely monitored, could suffer.

The Treasury, ever keen to maintain financial control from the centre, was unhappy about the large-scale cash devolution Tec implied: Tecs now have charge of most of the employment department's £2.6 billion training budget, announced this week.

Before he resigned last year, Sir Norman Fowler, the Tecs' progenitor in Britain, was unequivocal: "Never before has government been willing to hand to employers executive authority and executive responsibility for public programmes."

That handover has its problems. After the first five audits of local Tecs, Sir Geoffrey Holland, permanent secretary at the employment department, wrote to all Tec chairmen urging them to take action against the "weakness in financial management" the audits had revealed. A "disquieting overall picture" involved substantial overpayment of public funds, which is now being reclaimed. Mr Howard denies that the audits disclose fundamental difficulties with Tecs, arguing instead that they demonstrate the strengths of the audit systems.

Labour supports the Tec system, providing it works, though Tony Blair, the party's employment spokesman, believes the government's voluntarist approach will not provide the training Britain needs, and this week unveiled a clever variant of Labour policy that maintains the compulsion to train Labour feels is essential, but blends it with the Tec system and IIP quality control.

The real difficulty now is the recession. Companies are still spending on training, according to CBI figures, which show that 76 per cent of firms are maintaining or increasing their training spend. But the number spending less as the recession bites harder is growing. It was up by almost two-thirds in the last three months, rising even more sharply among smaller companies.

Budgets are under pressure at the same time as training demand is likely to grow, forced up by rising unemployment. Though Mr Howard is keen to promote training, details on his department's spending published this week confirm that the Treasury has cut more than £300 million from government training spending for the next financial year.

Companies are struggling hard to maintain their training spending and commitment, but as one chief executive in the manufacturing sector said: "It's asking a bit much to want us to keep up our training when at the first sign of the going getting tough, the government cuts its own training budget."

PHILIP BASSETT
Industrial Editor

Banking on bad debt news

TEMPUS

BAD NEWS is rarely as predictable as it is in the banks' forthcoming reporting season. The annual round of preliminary figures begins in a fortnight with Lloyds and will again be dominated by the massive bad debt provisions that are depressing profits and eroding reserves.

The mood will be even more sombre than a year ago. Then, further provisions were made against old Third World loans. This year the bad debts have occurred in the banks' core lending books in Britain. Provisions are at an all-time high of about £3.6 billion and there is worse to come as the recession deepens.

Barclays' provisions are expected to treble to £1.2 billion, or more than £3 million a day. The largest part of this is a £100 million write-off against British & Commonwealth, once one of the bank's largest corporate customers. But most of the bad debts are coming from the small company sector, from service businesses founded in the booming late Eighties.

Analysts forecasting 1990 profits have been obliged to second guess each bank's attitude towards non-performing loans instead of basing their estimates on underlying trading. This is inevitably a stab in the dark but most expect profits at Barclays, Lloyds, and National Westminster to fall by about 40 per cent, with Midland on break even.

BAD DEBT BLUES — BANKERS' LAMENT

Bank (share price)	Pre-tax Profits (£m) 1990	1989
Abbey National (253p)	572	501
Barclays (373p)	800	892
Lloyds (313p)	635	-715
Midland (174p)	22	-261
NatWest (284p)	500	404

1990 figures are forecasts from Smith New Court
Profits for 1989 are taken after exceptional Third World debt provisions.

In contrast Abbey National should report a reasonable advance. Its specialisation in domestic mortgage lending has protected it from the storm of corporate bad debts.

Fortunately, the banks' capital ratios should not come under too much pressure despite the provisions, since lending has been reined in.

In the past, banks have mitigated bad news with a generous payment to shareholders, and this year will be no exception. Dividends should grow by between 9 and 12 per cent, although Midland's cash shortage will force it to forego any increase.

Standard Chartered, which reports next month, could, however, become the first leading British bank to cut its dividend in modern history. Smith New Court is expecting a 10p reduction to 25p. This may be a signal for others to be more parsimonious in future.

Amid the carnage, there will be glimmers of hope. The recession has finally forced the banks to control costs. Expenses should rise by an average of 7.5 per cent, well below inflation.

Corporate lending margins are rising as Japanese and American institutions withdraw from the market. Barclays' margins on new loans are said to have doubled since the autumn, and the trend could boost income dramatically.

This crumb is hardly enough to justify the recent jump in share prices. The banks have outperformed the market by 10 per cent since the Gulf war started and are at their highest relative to the market for more than a year.

Ratings now range from 14 times forecast 1990 earnings for NatWest, down to 9 for Abbey National. Midland has the highest prospective dividend yield of 14.6 per cent, with healthier banks ranging between 5 and 9 per cent. Last summer, others had reached double digits.

The confidence may be premature. Bankers agree the rate of bad debts is worsening, and any fall in interest rates will only bring relief late in the year. Write-offs for 1991 could be higher than last year. Investors should wait for all the bad news to emerge.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Calendar of coincidence

AFTER finally seeing the back of Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand corporate raider who sold his 20 per cent stake in the engineering group this week, Vickers has made new strides forward in an unfamiliar area: wall calendars. For the Rolls-Royce to Riva powerboats group has been inundated with calls from British soldiers in the Gulf requesting copies of its latest work, which features demurely clad ladies rather than tanks. "It is apparently one of the few calendars they can have out there which will not offend the Saudis," says a spokesman for Vickers Defence Systems, who has nevertheless been surprised by the demand. The calendar tells the story of a young regimental tank officer home on leave towards the end of the first world war before returning to fight in Mesopotamia — the site, today, as luck would have it, of Iraq. Vickers insists it is all just a coincidence, and has set aside an extra hundred copies to keep the troops happy.

AMONG the runners finishing last in a marathon in Adelaide, Australia, last week was an older man wearing a T-shirt with the slogan: "Abominably Slow Man".

Doyen of the dram

THE bitterly cold weather should do little harm to the Scotch whisky industry, which has enjoyed a steady rise in sales since hitting a low point five years ago. But, dare it be said, the traditional dram may soon be replaced by the dubious delights of whisky mixed with lemonade, coke and other corruptions. Such is the view of Alan Gray, doyen of whisky analysts, and author of the popular annual review of the Scotch whisky industry which is published today. "In Scotland, lemonade is often mixed with whisky," says Gray, a chartered accountant by training, who has spent the last 17 years with Campbell Neill, the Glasgow stockbroker now owned by Charterhouse Tilney. To the envy of his fellow analysts, Gray spends much of his time visiting distilleries in Scotland and keeping up with the latest trends. "It is a real chore, although the whisky always tastes infinitely better there," he adds with a wink. Demand for such delights of Bunnahabhain — a product of Islay off the western Scottish coast — and the unlikely-sounding Sheep Dip, a blend of several malts, continues to pour in. Traditional demand from Japan and America aside, Gray has just received an unusual request from Latvia. Someone there has decided to purchase a container-load of whisky — perhaps looking for a quick turn on the local black market — and has asked him to recommend a suitable brand.

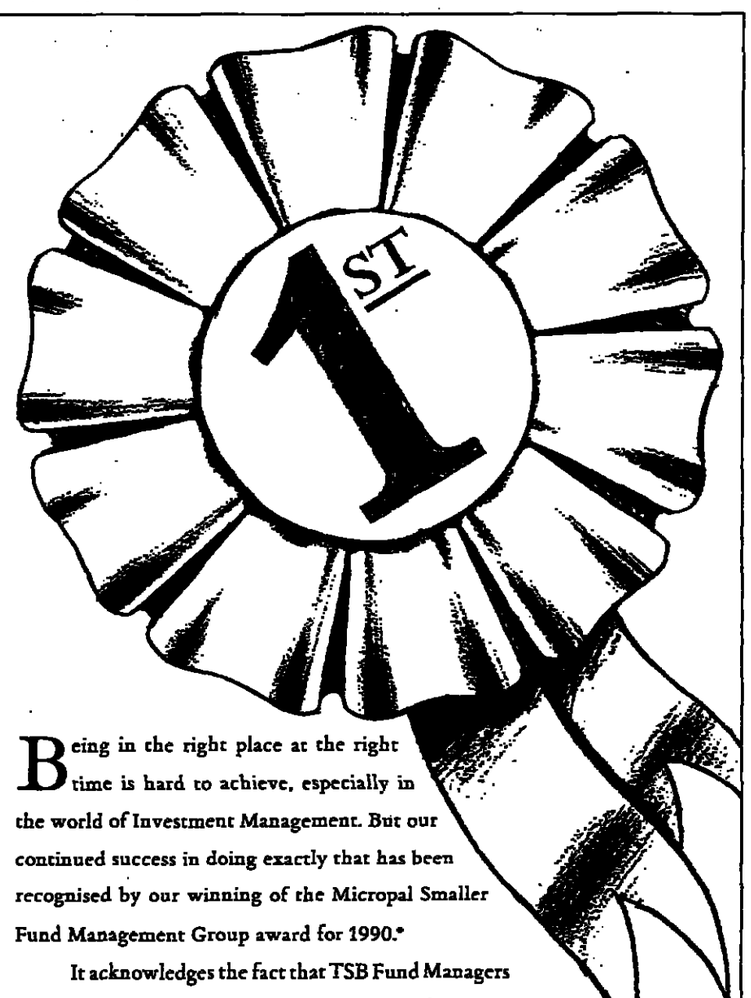
HEADLINE on the front page of a Louisiana newspaper: "Crayfish workers feeling the pinch".

Workout lunches

PORTLY stockbrokers used to a customary diet of long, stodgy and alcoholic client lunches will be horrified to learn that a new fitness craze is sweeping the City. Aerobics, it seems, is the most popular exercise, for men and women alike, according to Broadgate Club, where membership costs £850 a year. It is one of several health clubs that have sprung up within the Square Mile. Dealers and brokers from UBS Phillips & Drew, Warburgs and Hoare Govett — all conveniently nearby — are apparently discovering the dubious joys of Cardiofunk, Reebok Steps and a host of dance-related workouts. "Men seem to be getting in on the act as much as women," says Prue Redfern, director of the club, adding that one unnamed stockbroker became so overexcited during one of the routines that he crashed through a wall — leaving a mansized hole in the process. "We do see a change in our members as the day goes on," she adds. "In the morning they are on autopilot, at lunchtime they are enormously aggressive, and in the evening they are much more relaxed."

NOTICE on a stallholder's barrow in Chapel Market, Islington: "A prune is a plum with experience".

JON ASHWORTH



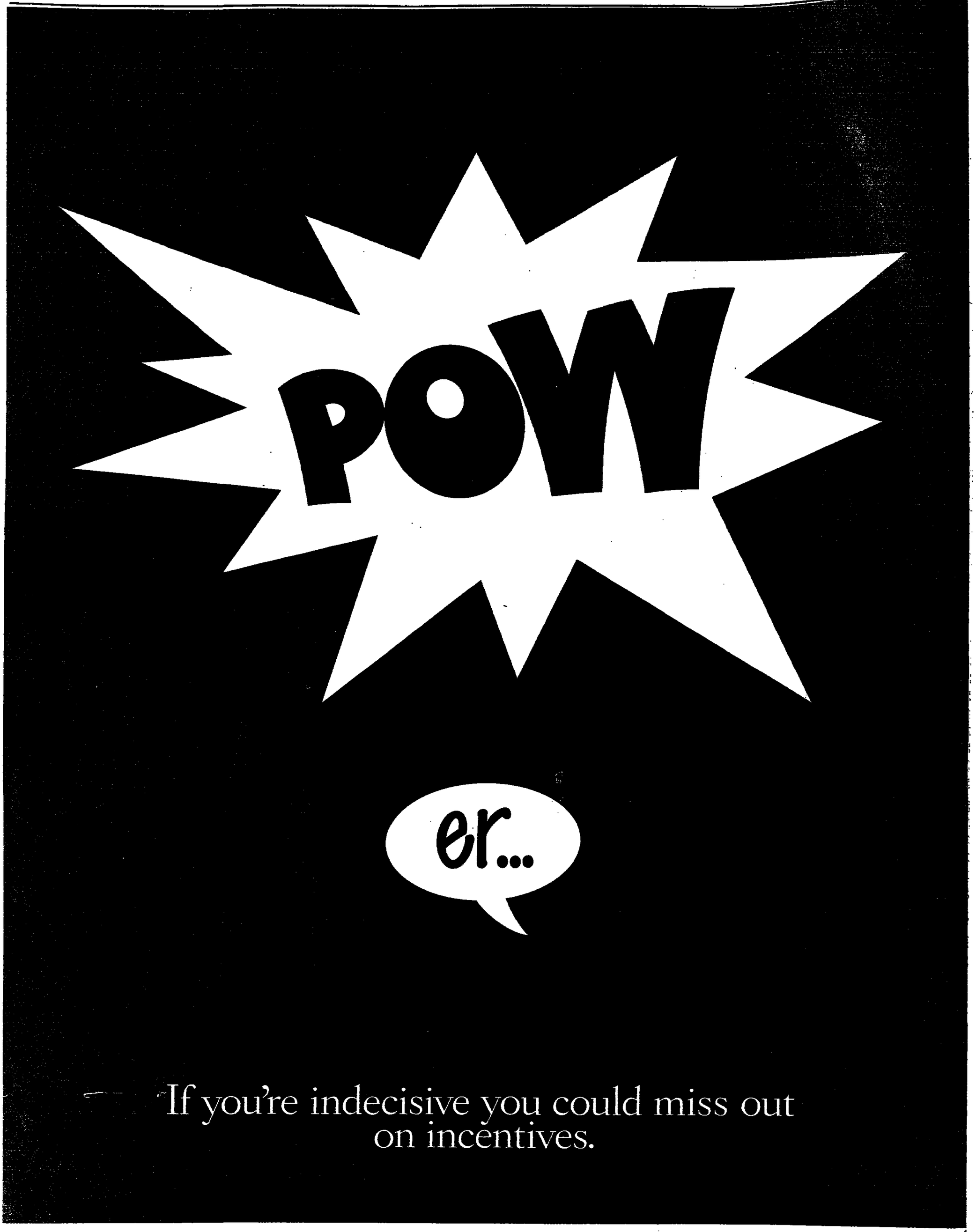
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STOCK MARKET

Bank shares gain on rights hopes

MERCHANT banks are enjoying something of a revival, raising hopes among fund managers that better times may lie ahead.

In the past, the merchant banking sector has often provided the earliest evidence of a bull market with a pick-up in corporate activity, including bids and rights issues. Tesco's decision last week to raise £572 million has convinced many in the City that a rights issue queue is forming, providing much needed business for the merchant banks.

Leading the way was **Kleinwort Benson**, 26p higher at 311p. Kleinwort Benson has been struggling under the burden of massive losses accrued from its decision last year to buy Burmah's near 30 per cent stake in Premier Consolidated Oilfields. Kleinwort was left nursing the stock and is reckoned to have made a loss of £34 million on the deal before it was able to unload the stake.

Speculators claim the losses make Kleinwort vulnerable to a bid and yesterday its name was being linked with that of Banque Indosuez. There has also been persistent talk of a major cost-cutting excercise in its securities division.

Elsewhere, there were gains for **Hambros**, 7p to 245p, **Schroders**, 5p to 648p, and **SG Warburg**, 14p to 352p.

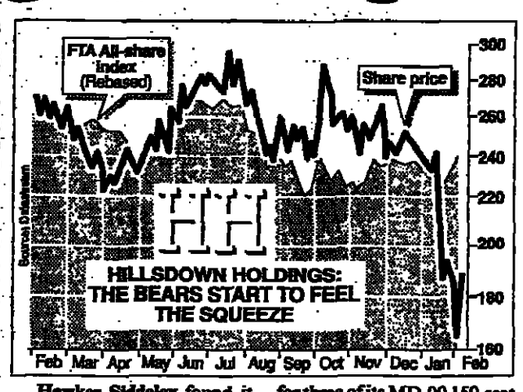
The rest of the equity market lost some of this week's heady gains as the Bank of England moved to play down speculation about an early cut in base rates. Dealers said there was evidence of profit-taking as the dollar came under pressure.

Turnover reached a respectable 563 million shares. The FT-SE 100 index closed 7.2 down at 2,194.8, while the FT Index of 30 shares fell 6.0 to 1,718.8.

Government securities scored gains of £¼ at the short end but were mostly unchanged in longs.

The big dollar earners came under early pressure but closed above the worst.

RTZ, the mining finance house group, fell 11p to 460p after a profits downgrading by James Capel, the stockbroker. Capel has cut its estimate for the current year by a massive £102 million to £397 million. It has also reduced its estimate for 1990 by £8 million to £504 million. It blames the slump in industrial production, which has led to lower metal prices.



Hawker Siddeley found itself the latest target of a bear raid as the shares tumbled 17p to 441p amid claims it was estimated 9 million shares after failing to find a home for them. With these shares overhanging the market, the price is likely to remain depressed in the short term.

But **Hillsdown Holdings**, the food to furniture group, continued to rally with a rise of 13p to 193p. Dealers say the bears are starting to feel the squeeze and one market-maker is known to be short of stock. Last week, Hillsdown became the subject of a bear raid which saw the price touch a low of 162p on talk that it was under financial pressure because of its borrowing levels and that several large lines of stock were on offer. The group has since been able to soothe some of the market's fears.

BET, the industrial services group, was unchanged at 99p. The shares were also the subject of bear raids last week. Charles Pick at Nomura, the Japanese securities house, says there are undoubtedly still risks attached to buying BET shares and further downgradings are possible. But unless there are hidden horrors still lurking, investors concerns are more than adequately discounted.

MICHAEL CLARK

Bank of Scotland shares lost 3½p to 126p. Lehman Brothers International has downgraded its profits forecast for the year to the end of this month from £195 million to £160 million because of the need to increase domestic provisions. Operating profits should show a 20 per cent advance, but bad loans, excluding LDC provisions, are expected to jump to £200 million, against £80 million last time.

considering a rights issue. The group denied the suggestion.

Rolls-Royce, the aeroplane engine group, fell 4½p to 141p despite celebrating a $30 million contract to supply McDonnell Dougals with engines for three of its MD-90 150-seat aircraft. Dealers fear the dollar's weakness will result in translation losses and make the group less competitive. **Vickers** also slipped 3p to 193p following this week's placing of the bulk of Sir Ron Brierley's 20 per cent stake by Warburg Securities. Warburg is still holding on to an

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Strikes	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Allied Lyon…	480	60	82	–	25	6	–
(*487)	500	47	62	75	7	18	20
	600	28	38	49	21	35	37
ASDA	110	17	23	24	3½	5	6½
(*128)	120	10	16	18	9½	9	11
	130	5	9	12	13	18	17
Bass	900	78	98	125	18	30	38
(*940)	950	48	73	97	40	54	57
	1000	25	48	75	82	–	88
	1050	12	32	52	120	122	125
Boots	300	42	48	58	4	8	11
(*333)	330	19	28	38	13	19	21
	360	7	14	24	32	35	37
Brit Air	120	25	25	28	3	6	7½
(*140)	130	17	20	21	5	9	12
	140	9	15	15	10	16	17
BP	280	28	42	45	4	6	10
(*309)	300	21	31	36	10	15	18
	330	5	16	22	30	31	34
Brit Steel	110	12	15	15½	2½	5½	7
(*119)	120	6	9	10	6¼	11	12½
	130	2	4	–14½	19	–	–
C & W	350	100	118	–	2	5	–
(*474)	420	75	97	99	6¼	12	15
	460	40	57	75	15	23	30
	500	17	34	50	34	42	47
Com Union…	420	77	82	87	4	7	9½
(*482)	460	40	55	60	13	18	22
	500	14	30	40	33	38	40
Courtauld …	300	48	54	64	3½	8	10
(*330)	330	28	33	44	11	17	19
	360	9	20	30	25	34	35
GKN	280	46	49	52	3	6	9
(*317)	300	28	37	40	14	18	22
	330	11	21	25	30	33	39
Grand Met…	600	98	110	121	6	13	17
(*671)	650	52	75	88	18	28	34
	700	28	47	61	45	58	57
ICI	850	100	118	122	19	27	38
(*941)	900	57	82	93	40	48	60
	950	28	55	70	67	72	85
Kingfisher …	380	46	52	59	7	14	21
(*399)	390	22	35	41	18	25	32
	420	8	18	–	36	42	–
Ladbroke …	200	36	40	44	4	8	11
(*230)	220	20	27	32	10	16	19
	240	11	17	22	20	28	28
Land Sec…	480	94	100	–	4	8	–
(*542)	500	57	86	75	43	11	14
	550	22	30	44	80	80	85
M & S	200	31	–	–	2	–	–
(*225)	220	16	21	26	9	12	14
	240	7	11	16	20	24	25
Sainsbury…	280	53	58	–	2	5½	–
(*324)	300	35	43	52	4	9	12
	330	16	25	35	16	22	24
Shell	700	47	62	80	1	5½	10
(*695)	750	20	37	52	55	56	58
	800	8	20	35	105	105	105
Tesco	210	23	28	34	1½	4½	5
(*226)	220	16	23	28	4	7	10
	230	9	17	23	11	13	15
Thames Wtr…	280	28	34	40	1½	5	11
(*302)	300	9	24	28	6	12	19
	330	3½	9	16	31	33	36
Wtr Package	2300	730	–	–	10	–	–
(*23008)	2350	680	–	–	10	–	–
	2400	630	–	–	10	–	–
Lucas	120	20	23	27	1½	4	7
(*138)	130	11	15	21	3	9	10
	140	4½	10	15	7½	14	16

	Strikes	Puts Feb	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Calls Feb	Calls Apr	Calls Jul
Pearson	330	58	68	73	½	3	6
(*364)	360	27	34	48	2	9	13
	390	6¼	19	30	14	22	24
	Strikes	Nov	Jan	Mar	Nov	Jan	Mar
Abbey Nat…	200	57	57	59	1	1½	2
(*254)	220	37	39	42	1	3	5
	240	17	25	29	4½	9	13
Amstrad …	90	21	23	24½	1	3	2½
(*99)	100	12	16	18	2½	4½	5
	70	5½	8	11	6	8	9½
Barclays…	300	75	78	–	2	3½	–
(*376)	330	48	53	60	5½	10	12
	360	28	35	40	15	20	27
Boots	300	7	17	28	35	38	45
(*333)	330	2	9	16	69½	69½	–
Bss Clvo…	200	41	43	47	2½	6	9
(*236)	220	24	28	35	9	13	16
	240	11	18	25	13	22	24
Brit Gas…	200	44	52	54	1¾	2½	4½
(*209)	220	25	33	37	3	5	8
	240	10	19	22	8	11	16
Distnrs…	130	28	31	32	2	4	5
(*184)	140	17	23	27	4	7½	8
	150	8	12	18	12	14	16
Reuter…	700	110	–	185	11	–	37
(*788)	750	75	–	137	25	–	68
	800	41	–	105	47	–	107
B-Royce…	140	10	12	15	7	11	12
(*141)	160	2¾	5	8	20	25	25
	180	1¾	2	4½	40	43	44
Sears…	70	18	17	17	1½	2½	4
(*84)	80	7	8¾	10	3½	7	8
	90	2¾	4½	6	10	13	14
THF…	220	18	22	28	8	13	16
(*230)	240	7½	11	17	17	24	27
	260	3	6	10	36	36	40
Thorn EMI…	550	115	130	–	–	2	3
(*656)	600	67	90	95	5	9	23
	650	27	55	58	18	27	41
	700	10	28	35	52	55	69
TSB…	130	25	27	29	1	2	3
(*141)	120	18	20	21	2½	4½	6½
	140	7	11	14	5	9	12
Vaal Reefs…	90	7	12	13	4½	9	11
(*101)	80	3½	7½	9	14	16	17
Wellcome…	360	94	110	–	2½	5½	–
(*477)	420	67	86	102	5½	12	16
	460	36	56	73	14	24	28

	Strikes	Nov	Jan	Mar	Nov	Jan	Mar
Eastern Elc…	140	25	31	34	2½	3	7
(*185)	160	10	17	19	6	9	15
	180	3½	7	10	19	20	28
Southern Elc…	140	35	40	–	2	3½	–
(*173)	160	17	23	–	5	6	–
	180	6	10	–	12	14	–
Tib Package	1700	120	160	–	50	75	–
(*21768)	1750	85	135	–	80	85	–
	1800	60	100	–	110	120	–

FT-SE INDEX (*2195)
2050 2080 2100 2150 2200 2250

Calls Feb	217	157	120	80	46	21
Mar	232	188	147	110	75	50
Apr	252	210	180	134	104	77
May	268	227	187	162	117	90
Jun	280	–	208	–	135	–
Puts Feb						
Mar	3½	4½	8	19	39	64
Apr	11	16	24	36	51	83
May	14	22	33	48	69	93
Jun	28	–	52	–	83	–

February 6, 1991 Total: 43286 Calls 25335 Puts 17833 FT-SE: Calls 3223 Puts 1611
*Underlying security price.

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily ch'ge (£)	Yearly ch'ge (£)	Daily ch'ge (lc)*	Yearly ch'ge (lc)*	Daily ch'ge (US$)	Yearly ch'ge (US$)
The World	593.9	0.2	3.5	0.3	4.4	0.7	6.9
(free)	113.5	0.2	3.4	0.3	4.3	0.7	6.9
EAFE	1020.0	0.7	4.0	0.3	3.0	1.2	7.4
(free)	104.8	0.7	3.9	0.3	2.8	1.2	7.4
Europe	610.6	-0.6	2.6	-0.5	2.8	-0.1	6.0
(free)	131.9	-0.6	2.3	-0.8	2.3	-0.1	5.7
Nth America	432.9	-0.6	2.6	-0.1	5.2	-0.1	6.2
Nordic	1157.8	-0.3	6.5	-0.1	6.9	0.2	10.0
(free)	188.9	0.1	5.6	0.2	6.0	0.6	9.1
Pacific	2267.6	1.7	5.1	1.1	3.2	2.2	8.6
Far East	3287.7	1.8	5.2	1.1	3.1	2.3	8.7
Australia	237.5	-0.9	3.5	-0.6	6.1	-0.4	6.9
Austria	1266.5	-0.5	-3.2	-0.3	-2.4	0.0	0.1
Belgium	718.8	0.7	1.8	0.8	2.0	1.2	5.2
Canada	422.6	-0.4	-0.6	-0.1	2.5	0.1	2.7
Denmark	1115.4	0.9	3.4	1.0	3.8	1.4	6.9
Finland	62.3	-0.4	-3.2	-0.3	-2.1	0.1	0.0
(free)	88.9	-0.3	3.4	-0.1	4.5	0.2	6.8
France	591.2	-0.7	3.1	-0.8	3.7	-0.2	6.6
Germany	697.7	-0.9	1.9	-0.8	2.4	-0.4	5.3
Hong Kong	2079.5	0.4	8.1	1.0	11.7	0.9	11.7
Italy	252.4	0.6	-1.1	0.7	-0.9	1.1	2.2
Japan	3446.8	1.9	5.1	1.2	2.8	2.4	8.6
Netherlands	723.7	-0.1	-2.0	-0.1	-1.5	0.4	1.3
New Zealand	55.2	-0.6	7.2	0.0	8.5	-0.1	10.8
Norway	1059.4	0.2	-4.9	0.4	-4.8	0.7	-1.7
(free)	187.5	0.4	-3.5	0.5	-3.4	0.9	-0.3
Sing/Malay	1511.6	0.2	4.3	0.5	6.0	0.7	7.8
Spain	177.0	-0.2	7.8	-0.2	6.7	0.3	11.5
Sweden	1296.1	-0.9	13.9	-0.8	14.3	-0.5	17.7
(free)	187.7	-0.9	13.1	-0.7	13.6	-0.4	16.9
Switzerland	741.9	-1.0	5.2	-1.3	5.5	-0.8	8.7
(free)	112.1	-1.1	4.3	-1.4	4.5	-0.6	7.8
UK	654.7	-0.7	2.4	-0.7	2.4	-0.2	5.9
USA	393.1	-0.6	3.0	-0.1	6.5	-0.1	6.5

(lc)* Local currency. Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International

WALL STREET

	Feb 6 midday	Feb 5 close		Feb 6 midday	Feb 5 close		Feb 6 midday	Feb 5 close
Abbott Lab	44⅝	44⅛	Enron	52⅜	51⅛	Onyx Enrgy	36⅛	34
Aetna Life	46⅛	46⅜	Entergy	22⅝	22⅝	Pac Enl	41⅛	41
Alamanco	15⅜	15⅜	Exxon	59⅝	59⅝	Pac Gas Elec	24⅜	24⅜
Air Prods	39⅝	38⅝	Fluor	51⅛	50⅝	Pac Telesis	41⅛	41⅛
Albertsons	38⅝	38⅞	Ford Motor	44	43⅞	Paccar	41⅛	40⅝
Alcan Al	21⅛	21⅛	Fedrl Exprs	42⅜	42⅝	Pacificrop	21⅛	21⅛
Alco Stand	32⅛	32⅝	Ft Norstar	13⅝	13⅝	Pall	42⅛	41⅞
Allied Signal	50⅛	50⅛	Fluor	44	44⅛	Paramount	44⅛	43⅞
Alumax CA	36	36	Gannett	55⅝	55⅜	Parker-Hanin	28⅝	28⅜
Am Brands	41⅞	42⅛	Gen Dynmcs	29⅛	29⅛	Penney	53⅛	52⅞
Am Cyanmd	55⅛	54⅝	Ford Motor	29⅛	29⅛	Pennzoil	67⅞	65⅝
Am EPC	27	27	FPL	28⅝	28⅝	Pepsico	29⅝	28⅝
Am General	36	35⅝	Fst Chicago	24⅞	25	Pfizer	91⅝	90⅝
Am Home	54⅜	54⅝	Fst Interstt	32⅛	32⅜	Phelps Dat	29⅜	28⅝
Am Intl	86⅛	85⅞	Fst Union	20	20⅛	Philip Mor	41⅛	41⅛
Am Medical	4⅝	4⅜	Gen Cinema	21	21⅛	Philip Morris	58⅛	58
Am Stores	63⅛	62⅝	Gen Elec	68	68⅛	Phips Dodge	64⅞	63⅝
Amax	23⅞	23⅝	Gen Mills	46⅝	47⅛	Pitney Bow	44⅝	44⅛
Amer Hess	47	44⅜	Gen Motors	35⅞	36⅛	Pitr Dome	18⅝	18⅛
Amerkech	80⅜	81⅜	Gen RE	82	80	PNC Fncl	26⅞	26⅜
Amex	24⅛	24⅜	Gen Signal	41⅞	41⅛	Pnkdle Elec	12⅝	12⅜
Amoco	51⅝	49⅝	Genentech	27⅞	27⅞	Polaroid	29⅝	29
AMP	50⅝	50⅝	Genuine Pts	38⅝	38⅞	PPG Inds	51	51
AMR	55⅝	58	Georgia-Pac	43⅝	43⅝	Prctr Gmble	80⅝	80⅝
Anheuser-B	46⅝	45⅝	Gillette	66⅝	66⅜	Prlon	45⅝	45⅞
Apple Comp	57⅞	57⅜	Goodrich	41⅝	42	Prmerica	27⅜	26⅝
Archer-Dan	21⅛	21⅛	Goodyear	20⅝	20⅝	Pub Service	29⅝	29⅝
Arkla	18⅜	18⅜	Grace	27⅝	27⅞	Quaker Oats	51⅛	52
Armstrong	27	26⅝	Greyhound	28⅝	28⅝	Ralston Pur	95⅞	95⅞
Asarco	28⅝	28⅝	Gt Atlantic	46⅝	46⅝	Raychem	25⅝	25⅝
Ashland Oil	30⅝	30	Gt Western	15⅜	15	Raytheon	77⅞	75⅞
AT&T	52⅝	52⅝	GTE	30	29⅞	Reebok	15⅞	15⅝
Atlan Richfld	125⅝	123⅜	Halliburtn	46⅝	44⅜	Roadway	47⅛	48
Auto DP	61⅛	61⅝	Heinz	34	33⅝	Rockwell	29	29⅛
Avery Intl	22⅛	22⅛	Hercules	36⅝	36⅛	Rohm Haas	39⅛	38⅞
Avon Prod	35	34⅞	Hershey Fd	41⅞	41⅝	Royal Dutch	77⅝	75⅝
Baltimore	28⅝	28⅝	Hewlett Pkd	57⅝	57⅝	Rubbermaid	43⅞	42⅝
Banc One	39	38⅝	Hilton Hd	40⅛	40⅛	Santa Fe	25⅝	25⅝
Banksamerica	32	32	Home Depot	45⅞	44⅝	Saraco	38⅝	38
Bard	20	20	Homestake	15⅝	15⅝	Schlmbrgr	25⅞	24⅝
Barrett Bl	25⅝	25⅝	Honeywell	49⅞	49⅝	Sent Fe Pac	7⅜	7⅛
Bausch Lmb	73⅛	71	Houston Ind	36⅝	36⅝	Sears Les	33⅞	33⅞
Baxter Intl	30	30	Howtld Inf	36⅞	36⅞	Schlmbrgr	37⅝	37⅝
Bec Dickin	71⅛	69⅝	Humana	45	45⅜	Schlumbrgr	57⅞	56⅜
Bell Atlan	48⅝	48⅝	IBM	129⅝	128⅝	Schrg-Plgh	45⅜	45⅝
Bellsouth	51⅜	51⅞	IFSF	79⅛	80	Scott Papr	43⅝	43⅝
Bir Hughes	25⅛	24⅜	Illnois TW	55⅞	55⅞	Seagram	69	68⅞
Black Decker	11⅝	11⅝	Inco	30⅝	30⅝	Sears Rbk	29⅝	29⅝
Boeing	47⅞	48	Ingersl-Rand	43⅝	43⅝	Sherry Pac	25⅝	25⅝
Bristn Tst NY	43⅝	44⅛	Inland Steel	28⅝	28	Shmrck-Wilms	43⅝	43⅝
Boeing	52	51⅝	Intel	48⅝	48	Skyline	19⅝	19⅝
Boise Casc	27⅝	27⅛	Intl Paper	66⅛	66⅝	Soap-on Tls	30	30⅛
Borden	32⅛	32	ITT	54⅛	55⅛	Southern	26⅛	26⅝
Brist-Myer	71⅛	70⅝	James River	26⅝	26⅝	St Paul	65	65⅛
Browng-Fer	28⅝	28⅝	Johnsn Jhsn	75⅛	75⅛	Stanley Wk	32⅝	32⅝
Burl Nth	30⅝	30⅝	K Mart	33⅜	32⅝	Stone Cntr	15⅞	15⅝
CAI	9⅝	9⅝	Kellogg	79	79⅜	Sun Co	30⅝	30⅝
Campbell Sp	64⅝	65⅝	Kerr-McGee	44⅛	43⅞	Sunbst Bk	26	26⅛
Cap Cities	476⅝	470	Kimbly-Clrk	86⅛	85⅝	Super Valu	25⅝	25
Capital HC	46⅛	45⅝	Knight-Ridd	50⅞	51⅛	SW Bell	53⅝	53⅛
Carolina	44⅛	44⅛	Lilly	75	76⅜	Syntex	85⅞	86
Caterpillar	48⅝	50⅝	Litton	22⅝	22⅜	Sysco	39⅞	39⅝
CBS	164	165	Lin Broadcg	67⅛	67⅞	Tandem	14⅝	14⅜
Central SW	44	43⅞	Lincln Nat	48⅝	48⅝	Tandy	31	30⅝
Champion	28⅝	28⅝	Litton Ind	81⅞	81⅞	Tele-comm	16	15⅞
Chase Man	13⅝	14	Lockheed	40⅝	40⅝	Teledyne	19⅝	20⅛
Chem Bnkg	15⅛	15⅜	Louis-Pac	30⅝	30⅝	Temple-In	35⅝	36⅝
Chevron	71⅛	69⅛	Manu Hano	24⅝	24⅜	Tenneco	48	48⅝
Chrysler	12⅞	12⅝	Marriott	13⅞	14⅛	Texaco	60⅛	59⅝
Chubb	83⅛	82⅝	Marsh Mclen	75⅜	75	Texas Inst	39⅝	39
Cigna	48⅝	46⅝	Martin Mar	51⅝	50⅝	Texas Utl	39⅝	39⅝
Citicorp	15	15⅞	Masco	22⅞	22⅝	Textron	29⅛	29⅛
Clorox Co	37⅝	38⅛	May Dept	48⅝	47	Thos Wtnr	100⅛	100
Clorox	39	38⅝	Maytag	11⅞	11⅝	Thos Mltr	30⅝	30⅝
Comwlth Edis	27	27⅝	MCA	39	39⅛	Thrbun	25	25⅜
CNA Finol	77⅛	74⅝	McDnl Doug	42	40⅝	Torchmark	52⅝	51⅝
Coastal	30⅝	29⅝	McDonalds	28⅝	29⅛	Toys R Us	27⅝	28⅛
Coca-Cola	50⅛	50⅛	McGraw-Hill	56⅝	56⅛	Transam	33⅜	33⅜
Colgate-Pal	73⅛	73⅜	MCI Com	24⅜	25⅛	Travelers	21⅛	20⅝
Colomb Gas	44⅝	44⅛	Mead	28⅝	28	Tribune	43⅝	44
Compaq	70⅝	71	Medtronic	57⅞	58⅛	TRW	40⅝	39⅝
Comsgra	39⅞	39	Melville	47⅛	46⅝	Tyco Lab	44⅛	41⅝
Cons Edis	29⅝	29⅝	Merck	95⅞	96⅛	UAL	135	133⅜
Cons NG	42⅛	42⅛	Merll Lynch	25⅛	25⅝	Un Camp	39⅝	39⅝
Cons Rail	48	48⅛	MMM	86⅝	86⅝	Un Carbide	18⅝	18⅝
Cooper Ind	47⅛	47	Mobil	59⅝	59⅝	Un Pacific	75⅝	74⅝
Corning	52⅝	52⅝	Monsanto	55	53⅛	Unilever	82⅛	80⅝
CPC Int	73⅝	74⅛	Moore	25⅛	24⅝	Unisys	25	25
Crown Cork	65	64⅝	Morgan	46⅝	46⅝	Unocal	25⅜	24⅝
CSX	38⅜	36⅝	Motorola	57⅞	57⅝	Upjohn	40⅝	40⅝
Dana	30⅝	31	Nat Medical	45⅛	44⅛	US West	37⅝	38
Dayton-Hud	69⅛	67⅝	Nat Semi	5	5⅛	USF&G	20⅝	20⅝
Deere	54⅝	55⅛	Nat Service	27	25⅞	USF&G	10⅛	9
Delta Air	71⅛	69⅝	Navistar	3⅜	3⅝	UST	41	39⅝
Deluxe	36	36⅛	NCNB	31⅞	31⅞	USX	29⅝	29⅝
Detroit Ed	28	28⅝	NCR	80⅝	80	Utd Tech	48⅛	48⅛
Digital Eq	71⅛	70⅝	NED Bncp	38⅛	38⅝	Utd Telcm	25⅞	24⅞
Dillard	36⅞	33⅞	Newmont Min	35⅞	35	VF	23⅝	23⅝
Disney	117⅝	116⅝	Niagr Mhwk	13⅝	13⅝	Wal-Mart	34⅝	34⅛
Dominion	46⅝	45⅛	Nike	47⅝	47⅝	Walgreen	30⅛	29⅝
Donnelley	42⅝	42⅛	NL Indstrs	16⅞	16⅞	Waste Mgmt	40⅛	40⅝
Dover	40⅛	39⅝	Nordstrom	28⅜	27⅞	Wells Fargo	65⅝	66
Dow Chem	52⅝	52⅝	Norfk Sthrn	44⅛	45	Westg Elec	28	28
Dow Jones	28⅝	28⅝	Norwest	24⅛	24⅜	Weyerhsr	24⅛	24⅛
Dresser Ind	24⅛	24	Wstn St Pwr	33⅛	33	Whirlpool	24⅝	24⅛
Du Pont	38⅜	35⅞	Nthn Telcm	28	28⅝	Whitman	21⅝	21⅞
Duke Pwr	27⅞	27⅝	NY Times	22⅝	22⅝	Winn-Dixie	38⅛	38
Dun Bradst	47⅞	48⅝	Nynex	73⅝	72	Woolworth	31⅜	32
East Kodak	43⅝	46⅛	Occid Petr	18	18⅛	Wrigley	55	54⅝
Eaton	68⅛	66⅛	Ohio Ed	17⅛	17⅛	Wnner-Lamb	72⅛	73⅛
Emerson El	43⅝	43⅛	Oracle Sys	9⅝	9⅝	Xerox	80⅛	49⅝

Blue chip stocks under pressure

New York

BLUE chips were weak in morning trade but came off early lows. Profit-taking sent share prices lower, but analysts said buying was likely after a round of consolidation. Weak bond prices ahead of yesterday's ten-year note auction also pressured shares.

"There's evidence of some profit-taking," one analyst said. "But I think it will be a brief pull-back." Don Hays, director of investment strategy at Wheat First Securities, said investors will probably use any weakness to buy.

The Dow was off 2.23 points to 2,786.

☐ **Tokyo** — Shares closed firmer but sharply off their highs as a morning rally quickly lost steam in afternoon trade. The Nikkei index slipped under the key 24,000 level shortly before the close as late market rumours and profit-taking trimmed gains.

"We had two good days of rises, so some profit-taking came in," said Ross Rowbury, senior broker at Sanyo Securities. "There was also some caution ahead of (today's) February options expiry date."

The 225-share Nikkei index was up 130.47 points to 23,952 at the close, with a hefty 750 million shares traded.

☐ **Frankfurt** — A technical correction ended a five-day string of gains, sending German shares lower in thin, featureless trading.

There were few factors to stimulate the market although an upswing in the final hour lifted prices off their lows. The 30-share Dax index ended 10.16 points lower at 1,428.69.

☐ **Hong Kong** — Share prices closed higher after rebounding from light profit-taking at midday, brokers said.

"After yesterday's rally, investors are sitting back to take a breather. But funds are still coming in from overseas institutional buyers and smaller local investors," said James Osborn, assistant director of Baring Securities.

The Hang Seng index gained 20.05 points to close at 3,365.46.

☐ **Singapore** — Share prices closed mixed after profit-taking alternated with selective bargain-hunting in active trade, brokers

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				
80, Helderbank Rd, Bournemouth BH9 8AL				
Tel: 0345 717373 (Lit.lines)				
City/Fixed	113.8	120.8	+0.2	9.52
High Inc Equity	129.4	138.6p	+0.7	4.96
Wrldw Bond	185.7	207.4p	+0.7	7.23
Amer Growth	155.4	166.2p	+1.9	1.16
Asian Pacific	161.1	167.5	+1.3	0.19
Assets/Equity	146.1	156.3	+1.5	3.42
Capd Pen	102.2	..	+0.3	6.89
Comm/Energy	65.60	70.16	+0.20	1.41
Euro Capit	78.25	83.66	+0.55	1.37
General	150.0	160.4p	+1.9	3.12
Japan	82.29	88.01	+1.51	0.00
UK Gth Inc	84.55	90.42	+0.77	3.15
Do Acc	130.7	139.7	+1.1	3.15
US Emerg Cos	48.47	51.83	+0.51	0.00
Income/Gth	105.6	284.5	+2.5	3.91
Mastertst Acc	76.51	81.82	+0.72	3.14
Am Inc	39.29	42.01x	+0.50	6.52
Ethical	41.98	44.47	+0.36	2.25
ABTRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
19, Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ				
Tel: 0224 633070 dealing (Freephone) 0800				
282634				
35, Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7DD				
Tel: 071-374 6881				
Am Inc/Gth	24.34	25.87	+0.19	3.08
Euro	63.30	67.19p	+0.12	0.00
Euro Inc/Gth	68.09	71.82	+0.24	1.71
Exempt	677.5	700.0x	+7.8	4.31
Extra Inc	35.96	38.31	+0.31	6.47
FIE Emerg Ec	41.06	43.67	+0.76	1.45
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TRUSTS				
Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL				
Tel: 0793 514614 dealing:0793 510388				
High Inc	312.0	332.2	+0.7	5.98
Equity Inc	167.5	176.3p	+3.6	8.17
High Yield	177.1	188.4	+1.6	6.19
Balanced	481.8	491.8	+11.8	4.09
Am Inc	27.18	28.94x	+0.42	5.11
World Ass Val	27.02	28.77	+0.88	1.70
Japan	113.8	122.4	+2.4	0.01
Sec of Am	230.6	245.8	+5.3	0.80
BARCLAYS UNICORN				
Unicorn House, 252, Romford Rd E7 Tel:				
081-534 5444				
Capit	78.66	84.53p	+0.71	4.43
Euro Gth Inc	84.16	89.77	+0.66	2.22
Extra Inc	94.09	99.61	+0.51	7.05
General	174.5	186.8	+1.3	4.61
Gt/Fxd Income	90.15	51.98	..	10.27
Inc Trust	376.5	402.7p	+2.7	6.64
BARING FUND MANAGERS				
PO Box 158, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4XX				
Tel: 081-658 6000				
Amer Gth	50.53	53.50p	+0.90	1.10
Am Sm Cos	53.84	56.99	+0.82	1.00
Australia	44.90	48.41	+0.67	2.66
Convertible	36.32	38.63p	+0.60	7.01
East	103.4	111.0	+1.1	1.30
Equity Inc	64.13	66.40	+0.64	6.20
Euro Gth	161.8	170.5	+1.2	2.30
Euro Sm Cos	138.8	146.4	+1.7	0.37
Exempt	58.53	60.50p	..	4.20
German Gth	42.68	45.29	+0.99	0.00
Global Gth	84.61	89.38	+1.32	0.10
Jap Gth	133.0	142.4e	+4.4	0.00
Jap Sunrise	111.9	119.5	+3.0	0.00
Pacific	83.59	87.99	+0.58	0.90
Do Acc	136.6	144.8	+0.9	3.70
UK Growth	47.86	51.86	+0.58	4.60
UK Smlr Cos	54.84	61.42	+0.97	3.50
Select Man Fd	46.18	49.52	+0.36	2.00
BROWN SHIPLEY				
9-17, Perrymount Rd, Haywards Heath Tel:				
0444 458144				
Financial	102.3	108.9	+1.1	6.16
Smlr Cos Acc	157.5	167.7	+1.7	0.90
Do Inc	95.15	101.3	+0.82	2.93
High Inc	94.13	82.85	+0.68	8.13
Income	82.54	88.00	+0.58	6.33
Man Portf Inc	76.10	74.88e	+0.40	3.48
Do Acc	125.0	133.1e	+0.7	2.20
Nth Amer	55.48	54.09e	+0.83	0.37
Orient	87.59	93.1	+1.30	0.26
Recov	254.6	268.5	+3.1	4.85
Recov	29.80	30.67	+0.13	3.14
Recov	32.57	34.89	+0.14	0.12
Recov	27.99	24.95	+0.12	3.14
Europe	18.28	19.72	+0.11	0.57
Conv Genl	16.75	17.86	+0.21	9.82
BUCKMASTER MANAGEMENT				
Beaufort Hse 15 St Botolph St London				
EC3A 7JJ Tel: 071-247 4543 Dealing 01-				
247 7476				
Fellowship Inc	48.43	51.53	+0.20	4.94
Inc Fund 3	137.2	145.4	+1.5	6.21
Do Acc 3	284.7	301.8	+2.9	6.21
Stnd Inc 5	74.70	79.18e	+0.80	4.28
Do Acc	85.06	90.16	+0.88	4.28
BURRAGE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
117 Fenchurch Street London EC3M 5AL				
Tel: 071-480 7218				
Stt Gt Fxd Int	61.06	61.96	+0.01	2.69
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
PO Box 108 Manchester M60 0AH Tel: 061-				
837 5566				
Environ	84.75	90.16	+0.83	2.86
UK Growth	98.41	104.7e	+1.16	3.13
UK Income	96.91	103.1	+1.07	6.37
CANNON FUND MANAGERS				
1, Olympic Way, Wembley Middx HA9 0NB				
Tel: 081-902 8876				
SE Asia	41.71	44.91	+0.46	2.56
Growth	33.52	35.91	a +0.34	4.67
Income	42.20	44.58	+0.49	7.15
For East	32.28	34.52e	+0.74	1.22
Nth Amer	37.29	39.87e	+0.43	0.00
Global	45.82	49.00	+0.29	2.89
European	55.21	59.05	+0.27	2.89
Japan	82.66	88.43	+2.27	0.01
Strategic Opp	36.58	41.74	+0.53	3.50
Int Currency	45.66	48.42	+0.04	7.88
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
35 Fountain Street, Manchester M22AF				
Tel Enquiries: 061-236 5865 Dealings:061-				
236 5362				
Capability Trusts				
Am & Gen	68.27	73.70	+0.79	1.20
Do Acc	73.31	77.99	+0.83	1.20
European	52.29	55.63	+0.93	2.20
Far East	53.49	56.91	+0.24	2.29
F East/Gen	42.76	45.52	+0.75	0.00
Do Acc	42.76	45.52	+0.75	0.00
Glentrans	192.9	205.3	+2.0	2.48
Do Acc	207.1	220.4	+2.1	2.34
Growth	252.2	268.3	+2.6	3.71
Do Acc	405.8	431.8	+4.2	3.71
Inc &Gth Inc	266.3	304.8e	+3.4	6.17
Do Acc	348.3	370.6e	+4.2	6.17
Master Portf	173.11	76.56e	+0.89	3.94
Do Acc	280.25	84.48e	+0.74	3.94
Spec Sits	54.32	57.79e	+0.97	4.08
Do Acc	80.39	84.25e	+0.76	4.08
Exempt Fund				
High Yld Exmt	312.0	940.3	+11.0	8.65
Do Acc	962.0	991.2	+11.6	8.99
CAPEL (JAMES) MANAGEMENT				
PO Box 302 7 Devonshire Square, London				
EC2M 4HU Tel: 071-626 0686 071-623 8063				
Amer Index	116.8	123.6e	+1.3	2.72
Capit	468.7	494.0	+8.9	6.19
Euro Index	97.84	104.2e	+0.66	2.39
Euro Growth	92.62	98.62e	+0.82	2.63
Far East S S	83.36	88.80e	+1.16	0.66
Gold Gen & S	49.22	52.62	+0.51	6.00
Income	367.8	413.5	+5.2	6.45
Ind Gth	91.91	85.39	+0.92	1.92
Jap Index	55.25	59.07e	+1.36	0.21
N Amer	242.5	258.7	+3.6	0.29
Tiger Index	68.53	73.24	+1.25	2.46
UK Index	91.48	97.83e	+0.36	4.80
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
16 Tokenhouse Yard, London EC2R 7AN				
Tel: 071-606 6090				
Amer Portf	45.34	48.50	+0.45	2.43
Euro Portf	53.58	57.65	+0.57	1.55
Jap Portf	39.25	48.91e	+0.49	0.28
Pacific Portf	45.61	48.05	+0.35	2.50
Portf	50.66	54.21e	+0.12	2.99
UK Inc/Gth	50.01	53.76	+0.16	7.11
CENTRAL BOARD OF FINANCE OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND				
2, Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ Tel: 071-				
588 1815				
Income	460.9	485.6e	..	6.03
Acc	£15.73	15.86p	..	..
Deposit	100.0	..	..	13.75
CHINA UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
PO Box 128 Beckenham Kent BR3 4PH Tel:				
081-663 3030				
Euro Gth	73.54	78.84	+0.43	1.75
1992 Euro Spc	53.58	57.29	+0.17	2.31
Intl Inc	88.24	92.88	-0.17	9.86
NAm Gth	38.29	40.94	+0.57	1.13
Pacific Gth	61.11	65.38	+0.27	1.55
UK Gth Acc	74.10	79.24	+0.49	3.09
UK Income	66.66	71.28	+0.45	3.44
UK Income	66.66	62.66	+1.26	7.03
CITY FINANCIAL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
1 White Hart Yard London Bridge SE1 Tel:				
071-407 5999				
Back Int Cp Ac	59.25	61.13	..	6.00
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MANAGERS				
St Helen's, 1, Undershaft, London EC3P				
3DQ Tel: 071-283 7500 Dealing 081-686				
6010				
Am Gth	86.95	63.78	+0.50	2.91
Euro Gth	72.15	76.79	+0.37	1.95
Far East	59.65	62.29	+1.07	1.03
Gamma Inc	23.94	25.47e	+0.02	4.83
Do Acc	26.60	27.33e	+0.02	4.83
Gt/Fxd Int	48.22	44.02	+0.02	7.75
Inc	84.52	89.05	+0.75	6.18
Jap Gwth	29.84	31.43	+0.58	0.00
Monthly Inc	39.60	42.19e	+0.15	10.35
Private Inv Pf	48.56	51.66	+0.25	5.73
Do Acc	54.39	57.86	+0.28	5.73
Prolase Inv Pf	52.25	55.59	+0.57	3.35
Do Acc	54.29	57.74	+0.41	3.35
UK/Gen Inc	53.85	57.28	+0.51	4.98
Do Acc	60.61	64.49	+0.58	4.98
Wrlwide Bond	44.85	47.71	+0.76	6.97
Wrlwide Sts	48.05	40.79e	+0.57	1.78
Do accum	39.22	41.95e	+0.58	1.81
Cultter Gen Inc	90.75	96.54	+0.56	2.73
Cultter Inc Acc	83.68	88.99e	+1.11	6.30
Cultter Inc Acc	86.86	92.40	+1.20	1.23
COMMERCIAL UNION PRESTIGE FUND (Formerly Royal Trust Fund Management)				
UK Sp Sits Inc	62.86	66.87	+0.60	5.09
Do Acc	78.4	83.4	+0.7	5.09
Pacific Basin	145.2	154.5	+2.52	0.29
Finance/Prop	76.06	80.91	+0.94	4.29
Fixed/Conv	31.3	33.34	..	11.82
Do Acc	71.91	76.39e	+0.05	11.82
Equity Acc	115.0	122.3e	+1.51	2.30
High Yield Inc	326.6	349.5e	+4.42	8.49
Int Inc	94.56	100.5	+1.06	7.96
Int Acc	113.8	121.0	+1.27	7.96
Int Inc	74.26	79.00	+1.16	2.17
Do Acc	80.24	85.36	+1.26	2.17
Preference Inc	35.53	37.80e	+0.01	11.86
Do Acc	164.0	185.8e	+0.85	11.86
UK Smlr Cos	35.67	38.16	+0.07	3.01
Do Acc	41.62	44.28	+0.09	3.01
PPT Canada	39.05	41.54	+0.37	0.07
PPT Dortmnd	41.29	43.93	+0.37	0.00
PPT Europe	111.1	118.2	+1.09	1.30
PPT Global	51.32	54.60	+0.15	4.38
PPT Gold	34.83	36.20	-0.01	0.00
PPT Pac	34.55	36.79	+0.25	1.00
PPT HK	36.22	36.53	+0.50	2.73
PPT Jap	90.17	95.93	+2.52	1.79
PPT Sing/M	54.04	57.49	+0.61	0.00
PPT UK	66.40	91.91	+0.83	5.91
PPT US	77.96	82.83	+0.88	1.97
PPT Cash	78.82	..	+0.12	14.17
Wrlwide Alpha	53.61	57.03	+0.77	0.00
Do Accum	55.15	58.67	+0.79	0.00
DFM UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				
4, Melville Crescent, Edinburgh Tel: 0345				
090828				
Amer	70.90	75.33	+1.75	1.33
Capit	87.76	93.25	+0.68	2.14
Convertible	98.13	102.22	+0.18	11.03
Eurofund	28.39	30.19e	+0.29	1.09
Exempt Mngd	122.5	127.1	+2.2	2.29
Growth/Inc	175.1	186.0e	+1.8	6.05
High Div	125.3	131.0	+1.1	7.91
Intl	233.5	237.5	+2.7	2.11
Pacific	28.47	31.29	+0.47	0.48
Reserves	17.66	18.62	+0.11	0.00
Smaller Asp Cos	48.21	51.10e	+1.04	0.00
Tokyo	182.8	191.9	+3.4	0.00
Ex Am 2	125.1	128.5	+2.5	1.74
Ex Jap 3	101.5	104.3	..	0.22
Ex Smlr Jap 4	412.1	423.4	..	0.09
EAGLE STAR UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				
Beth Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53.				
7LG Tel: 0242 577366				
Orient Op Acc	46.44	51.53	+0.60	1.85
Japanese	47.90	50.96	+1.32	0.00
UK Balan Inc	81.39	86.57	+0.80	4.08
Do Acc	90.51	96.23	+0.89	4.08
UK Gth Accum	130.2	138.5	+1.2	2.56
UK Hi Inc Acc	98.7	105.0	+1.1	6.62
UK Hi Inc Acc	102.1	108.6	+1.1	6.62
N Amer Acc	83.08	84.99	+0.34	1.41
Euro Acc	90.88	96.63	+0.56	0.29
UK Gth/Fi Inc	53.76	57.07	+0.04	8.32
Do Acc	74.51	79.09	+0.05	8.32
Int Sp & Acc	38.88	38.10	+0.47	1.05
Emerald Opp	45.88	48.80	+0.32	1.85
ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
41, Herrington Gardens London SW7 4JU				
Tel: 071 373 7251				
Endurance	119.2	126.6	..	2.64
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Walton Street Aylesbury, HP21 7QW Tel:				
0296 421460				
Equitie Pelican	88.96	94.72	..	5.66
High Inc	92.82	97.70	..	7.46
Gt/Fxd Interest	47.30	49.79e	..	9.62
T Of Inv Ts	92.73	97.61e	..	3.77
Spec Sits	82.00	86.32	..	3.35
N Am	39.01	62.12	..	1.56
Far East	139.7	142.8	..	1.56
Intl Gth	83.62	88.07	..	3.25
Euro	86.28	92.83	..	2.15
Smlr Cos	43.90	46.21	..	7.38
EQUITY & LAW				
St. George Hse Corporation St, Coventry				
CV1 1BD Tel: 0203 553331				
UK Gth Accum	215.9	229.4	+2.9	4.85
Do Inc	167.4	178.1	+1.8	4.85
Higher Inc Acc	353.0	407.5	+3.7	6.38
Do Inc	259.8	276.9	+2.5	6.38
Global/Fxd Acc	131.0	137.9	..	9.06
Do Inc	91.44	96.25	..	9.06
N America	123.1	131.0	+1.5	0.00
Far East	186.3	198.2	+3.7	1.28
Europe	183.6	195.4	+2.6	1.06
Smlr	169.5	180.3	+2.6	0.00
Genl Acc	302.9	322.3	+2.9	4.48
Gr Excellence	45.35	48.14	+0.32	4.18
Gr Fdmtls Inc	50.82	54.07	+0.32	7.63
Do Acc	58.45	62.19	+0.37	7.63
Global Opp	46.21	48.17	+0.60	1.30
FE INVESTMENT MANAGERS				
188, Wood George St, Glasgow G2 2PA Tel:				
041-332 9132				
Britain Gth Acc	67.19	71.86	+0.79	3.15
Do Inc	59.28	63.39	+0.24	5.15
High Yield Acc	36.95	39.52e	+1.53	5.12
Do Inc	29.82	31.90e	+1.56	5.12
Inc Gth Acc	58.05	62.06	+0.45	5.36
Do Inc	51.16	42.95	+0.53	5.36
Services Co Acc	52.59	57.74	+0.34	2.55
Do Inc	51.36	55.47	+0.33	2.55
Am Gth Acc	34.40	28.09e	+0.27	2.11
Do Inc	29.92	26.59e	+0.24	2.11
Euro Gth Acc	24.84	26.17	+0.29	1.43
Do Inc	23.1	24.7	+0.2	1.43
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD				
Oakhill House, 130 Tonbridge Road				
Hildenborough Kent TN11 9DZ Tel: 0800				
414161				
American	130.8	137.7	+1.8	0.00
Am Equity Inc	25.35	26.74e	+0.34	4.43
Am Spec Sits	82.57	86.96	+0.76	0.00
ASEAN	16.02	17.73	+0.40	0.00
Cash Unit	1.25.28	e	+0.04	14.28
European	89.87	95.62	+0.85	0.00
Euro Inc	26.17	27.60e	+0.16	3.65
Global Conv	40.05	42.70e	+0.57	0.00
Far East Inc	31.36	33.55	+0.36	3.59
Gt/Fxd Interest	25.36	25.82e	+0.05	10.92
Growth/Inc	111.1	119.2	+1.5	5.73
Jap Spec Sits	138.1	146.7	+1.57	0.00
Japan	128.6	136.8	+3.5	0.00
FOREIGN & COLONIAL				
8th Floor, Exchange Hse Primrose Street				
London EC2A 2NY Tel: 071-628 8000				
Euro Income	72.38	77.09e	+0.56	1.22
Far East	88.58	93.67	+2.92	0.09
Gilt Income	56.62	60.43	+0.66	4.80
High Income	64.17	68.60e	+0.29	3.46
Inc For Fund	91.95	97.83	+1.18	6.79
US Smlr Cos	93.04	101.0	+1.56	0.00
FRANKLINGTON UNIT MANAGEMENT				
155, Bishopsgate London EC2M 3YT Tel:				
071-374 4100				
Am Smlr Cos Acc	167.0	199.9	+2.5	..
Do Inc	167.9	199.8	+5.6	..
Am Trnd Inc	167.9	199.8	+5.6	..
Do Acc	194.8	207.3	+5.8	..
Capd Inc	190.9	203.0	+6.1	4.78
Do Acc	190.9	203.0	+6.1	4.78
Cont Smlr Inc	38.22	40.65	+0.20	0.68
Do Acc	38.22	40.65	+0.20	0.68
Conv Inc	82.15	87.36	+0.08	9.48
Do Acc	135.0	144.1e	+0.1	9.48
Euro Inc	82.46	88.39	+0.45	0.77
Do Acc	83.71	89.74	+0.45	0.77
Extra Inc Inc	204.5	217.4	+1.9	7.55
Do Acc	275.5	278.1e	+1.9	7.55
Financial Acc	51.34	54.61	+1.05	1.77
Do Inc	50.19	53.36	+0.89	1.77
Inc Trust	171.1	182.0	+1.4	7.06
Do Acc	171.1	182.0	+2.1	..
Intl Gth	169.5	181.5	+2.1	..
Do Acc	169.5	181.2	+2.1	..
Japan & Gen Inc	227.8	242.3	+3.0	..
Do Acc	121.2	129.3	+3.0	..
Mangd Port Inc	82.64	86.98	+0.82	1.97
Do Acc	82.64	86.98	+0.82	1.97
Monthly Inc	109.2	116.3e	+0.5	7.29
Recov	154.3	164.1e	+1.5	2.43
Do Acc	177.4	188.7e	+1.5	2.43
Smlr Inc	132.8	141.2e	+1.1	1.34
Do Acc	35.19	37.43	-0.01	0.67
Gth Gth Inc	60.86	62.76	+0.11	0.49
Do Acc	62.04	63.98	+0.11	0.49
Gth Inc Inc	57.09	58.87	+0.10	11.84
Do Acc	62.30	64.23	+0.09	11.84
FRIENDS PROVIDENT MANAGERS				
Centre Gate, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 1BH Tel:				
Dealings:0722 411411 Inquiries:0722 411622				
Equity Dist	248.0	264.9	+2.22	4.21
Do Acc	471.1	501.2	+4.19	4.21
Euro Gth Dist	80.28	85.40e	+0.72	0.57
Do Acc	81.22	86.40e	+0.72	0.57
Fixed Int Dist	111.8	119.2	+0.38	8.20
Do Acc	187.8	177.5	+0.64	8.20
Int Gth Dist	83.57	88.78	+0.61	0.85
Do Acc	54.43	57.91	+0.84	0.85
Prop Bnd Dist	116.8	117.8e	+0.12	1.29
Do Acc	161.3	171.6e	+3.5	8.92
Stand Dist	208.7	222.1	+0.98	3.11
Do Acc	238.7	253.8	+0.98	3.11
Smlr Cos Dist	46.21	48.10e	+0.15	0.95
Do Acc	51.27	54.54e	+0.13	0.95
NAm Stand Dist	84.20	87.66e	+0.01	0.51
Do Acc	96.72	60.34e	+0.01	0.51
GT UNIT MANAGERS				
5th Floor, 6, Devonshire Sq, London EC2M				
4YE Tel: 071-283 2575 Dealing 071-626				
9431				
Am Sp Sits	67.88	72.39	+0.56	0.00
UK Cap Inc	118.7	123.8e	+0.8	4.24
Do Acc	118.7	123.8e	+1.2	4.24
Do Spec Sits	40.25	43.05	+0.04	3.26
Inc Fund	94.27	100.8	+0.82	6.77
Intl	157.2	167.8	+1.7	1.48
Jap & Gen	30.51	96.23	+0.83	0.00
Jap & Gen'l	309.5	329.8	+7.4	0.00
Far East/Gen	158.1	167.0	+3.0	1.43
Euro	292.2	310.6	+2.5	0.43
Germany	82.19	87.49	+0.34	0.00
Intl Inc	48.52	51.69	+0.37	6.48
W'wid Spec Sit	64.57	69.47	+0.73	0.65
Global Prp Inc	36.39	42.13	+0.38	2.91
Do Acc	36.39	42.13	+0.40	2.91
Smlr Cos Div	30.83	32.78e	+0.11	7.46
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
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British Gth	29.54	31.39e	+0.27	3.51
CashTrust**	109.74	c	+0.03	14.26
Pract Inv Inc	75.37	80.83	+0.68	4.80
Do Acc	160.2	181.1	+1.36	4.80
UK Gold Cos	71.54	76.72	+0.11	4.31
Income Trusts				
Extra Inc	85.28	89.10	+0.50	7.41
Preference	19.46	20.81e	-0.01	14.13
High Inc	97.98	29.83e	+0.06	8.46
Indexgen	82.04	93.40e	+1.91	4.84
Intl Fxd Int	21.73	22.87	..	6.80
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European	59.24	61.79e	+0.28	1.35
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Hong Kong	77.74	81.75e	+1.51	..
Pacific Inc	78.67	84.13e	+0.75	3.76
Pacific Strat	48.62	53.29e	+0.84	0.25
UK Prog Inc	68.78	69.21	+0.66	7.70
SI British	42.04	44.97	+0.69	3.23
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Gth Equity	222.8	235.7	+1.7	4.58
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2	Fitzwilton	Industrials E-K	
3	Monument	Oil,Gas	
4	Hardy O & G	Oil,Gas	
5	Scot Met	Property	
6	Guinness	Breweries	
7	Travis Perkins	Building,Roads	
8	Abbott Mead	Paper,Print,Adv	
9	Shell (ut)	Oil,Gas	
10	Steetley	Building,Roads	
11	Tilbury Group	Building,Roads	
12	Watmough	Paper,Print,Adv	
13	Cater Allen	Banks,Discount	
14	Scholes Grp	Electricals	
15	P & O Def	Transport	
16	STC	Electricals	
17	Br Petroleum	Oil,Gas	
18	Utd Biscuits	Foods	
19	Cable Wireless	Electricals	
20	Boot (Henry)	Building,Roads	
21	Morley	Building,Roads	
22	Concentric	Industrials A-D	
23	Lex Service	Motors,Aircraft	
24	Nurdin & Peacock	Foods	
25	Bridon	Industrials A-D	
26	Spirax-Sarco	Industrials S-Z	
27	Century	Oil,Gas	
28	CRH	Building,Roads	
29	Schroders	Banks,Discount	
30	Cattles	Banks,Discount	
31	Cray Elect	Electricals	
32	Thames TV	Leisure	
33	Tate & Lyle	Foods	
34	Siebe	Industrials S-Z	
35	Stand Chart	Banks,Discount	
36	Mansfield	Breweries	
37	Bodgen	Foods	
38	Gr Portland	Property	
39	Yorkshire TV	Leisure	
40	First Leisure	Leisure	
41	Power Corp	Property	
42	Braithwaite	Industrials A-D	
43	Lon Intl	Industrials L-R	
44	Northumbrian	Water	

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Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to today's competition.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Stocks slip on profit-taking

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 28. Dealings end tomorrow. §Contango day February 11. Settlement day February 18. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Investment Trusts appear on Page 28

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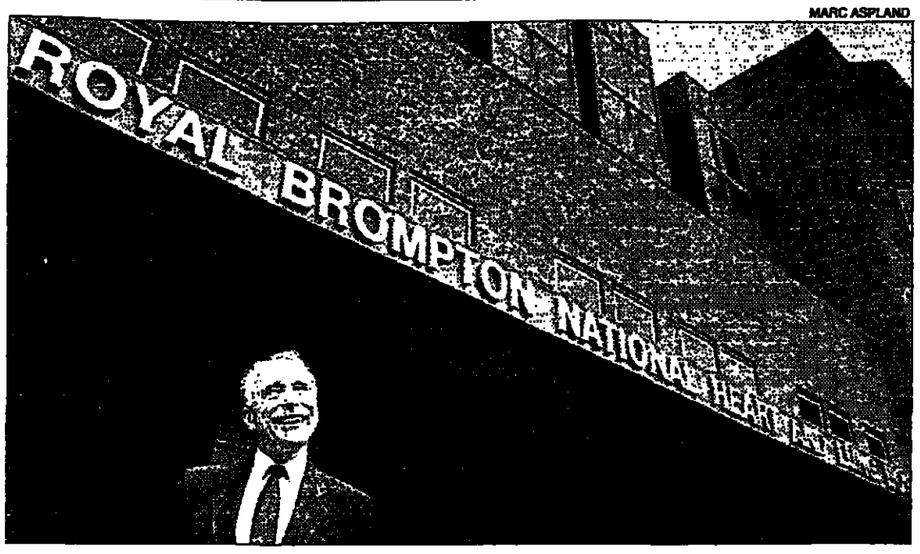
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MARC ASPLAND



Moving in: John Plant, of the special health authority, which has a £40 million budget for the next year

To the heart of the matter after 25 years

Today, when the Queen opens a £22 million heart and lung hospital and two research institutes in London, it will be the realisation of a dream begun more than a quarter of a century ago. Pat Blair reports

When the Queen opens the £22 million Royal Brompton National Heart and Lung Hospital in Chelsea, west London, today, it will be the realisation of a plan that was first mooted in the Sixties.

Now, more than 25 years later – because of National Health Service stops and starts, changes in government planning and funding and several NHS reorganisations – the rebuilding on a single site of the National Heart Hospital and the Brompton Hospital, and their two research institutes, is complete, and a second phase is expected to be finished in four or five years' time.

Financing of this first 209-bed phase of the hospital has been met mainly by the health department, £18 million coming from the sale of land owned by the two hospitals. The University Funding Committee and trust funds of the board of governors also made contributions.

The hospital, along with its sister hospital, the Royal Brompton Victoria Park (formerly the London Chest Hospital) in east London, forms a postgraduate special health authority (SHA) under the NHS, but is funded directly by the health department. Its total budget for the coming financial year will be slightly more than £40 million, which, according to John Plant, the SHA's chief executive, is "not enough". The Royal Brompton's revenue budget in 1991-92 will be £22 million.

An overspend from last year is being contained within this financial year. Mr Plant says: "The government grant for next year is quite substantially higher, but we are afraid that a lot of the so-called development money will be absorbed by inflation and pay awards."

From April, direct funding will continue, but on a changed basis: instead of being given a lump sum to do its job, there will be a contract between the NHS management executive and the SHA to provide research, development and teaching for the NHS. "The contract will be in fairly general terms to start with," Mr Plants says. "It will gradually become more precise as time goes by, so that we shall agree exactly what research, development and teaching we shall carry out, and will be paid accordingly."

That could, he accepts, change the hospital's direction of research because the executive may want to influence what is done. "We shall clearly want to advise them about the sort of research we should be doing." Mr Plant says, "so there will be dialogue between us."

The Royal Brompton deals with about 18,000 in-patients and 75,000 out-patients a year. Of those, some are from overseas.

'Staff and patients seem to think the aim of a caring environment has been achieved'

As a result of an intergovernmental health treaty made in the mid-Seventies, there is quite a close relationship with the Soviet Union, which has provided an increasing number of patients in the past year. The hospital attracts a lot of patients from Iceland and Greece because of direct contracts with their governments.

"In an average year, we get patients from probably about 50 countries," Mr Plant says. Earnings from such patients help boost the hospital's private income of about £5 million or £6 million for research.

In the upheaval of change, there have been winners and losers. An obvious winner is the new department of imaging. The paediatric department, too, has gained, as Dr Elliot Shinebourne, a consultant paediatric cardiologist, admits. Further expansion of the department is hampered by the shortage of trained specialist nurses, a national problem that is being looked into by Jenny Hunt, the hospital's chief nurse.

A loser has been the separate area for adolescent cardiac patients, which operates under the guiding hand of Dr Jane Somerville. The loss of the unit has greatly upset Dr Somerville, who has the backing of other cardiologists. The services will continue, she says, but the development in which great international interest has been shown is likely to be curtailed.

Generally, the NHS has not catered for adolescents – patients are either adults or children – although there is growing understanding that teenagers with congenital, chronic or life-threatening diseases experience additional problems because of puberty.

Mr Plant, who has observed those teenagers with respiratory disease and cardiac problems, accepts that adolescent patients require special facilities, a degree of separation. "We do intend," he says, "to make better provision when we build phase two, which will include the respiratory patients as well."

The aim has been to create a caring, attractive environment for the hospital, he says, reproducing as much as possible the atmosphere that existed in the old buildings for nearly 150 years.

At the same time, it would be a building in which the most advanced medicine, using the latest technology, could be practised. Mr Plant says: "Most of the staff and patients seem to think these aims have been achieved."

JAMES GRAY



Care in the cot: Dr Elliot Shinebourne, a consultant paediatric cardiologist, at the hospital, and 18-month-old Eliza Fraser

Arresting the cardiac killer

Prevention is as important as cure to surgeons investigating new techniques

The merged hospital boasts the best cardiac facilities in Europe, says Professor Philip Poole-Wilson, the head of the department of cardiac medicine. (*Pat Blair writes*).

"It will be one of the largest, if not *the* largest, cardiac centres in Europe. It can easily compete on the European scene and certainly compete with the large American centres," he says.

"What we are putting together is a cardiological facility which is up to the best of other centres internationally," he says. The centre's goals are to deliver health care to patients and also advance the subject of cardiology, collaborating with other centres around Britain.

Some of the most dramatic advances in medical care have occurred in cardiology over the past 20 years and there has been a substantial drop in death from heart disease, although it remains the biggest killer. New found treatments include drugs to combat thrombosis, cardiac transplant surgery and angioplasty, the procedure in which a tiny "balloon" is pumped up inside a narrowed blood vessel to open up the free flow of blood.



Research: Magdi Yacoub

"The key thing we do here is to bring together clinical activity and basic science," Professor Poole-Wilson says. "Our major attribute is that we have a very large group of basic scientists – about 350 within the institute – who interact with a large group of doctors who have heart and lung disease as their sole objective."

The hospital draws people of international standing, among them Dr Ulrich Sigwart, a German doctor. He came to the hospital from Lausanne, in Switzerland, where he developed the self-expanding, elastic and pliable stent, a tube woven from stainless steel that is inserted into an artery after balloon angioplasty. The tube is a key component in lining the diseased part of the artery and helping to prevent it narrowing again. The Royal Brompton's "more scientific environment" encouraged Dr Sigwart to leave what was a better-funded service in Switzerland. "I had great difficulties in getting the project through in Switzerland because the infrastructure was missing," he says.

Another international figure is Professor Magdi Yacoub, whose pioneering heart and lung transplants have made him a household name. "The hospital provides the whole spectrum of cardiac surgery, from neonates (babies less than a week old) with all complex types of congenital heart disease to people with degenerative heart disease, valve disease, coronary disease," Professor Yacoub says. The Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospital together run the world's biggest transplant programme, catering for heart, heart-lung, single lung and double-lung transplants. Professor Yacoub says: "If we are to make headway in the care of patients, we should be able to care for the patients at the very highest level in large numbers and at the same time have a grasp of basic science, and apply it." The hospital is conducting research into surgical procedures, and the mechanism of the disease that creates the need for surgery.

Professor Yacoub says: "We feel it is our duty to research it. As surgeons, we want to prevent the disease we treat. What constitutes research and care is totally indivisable."

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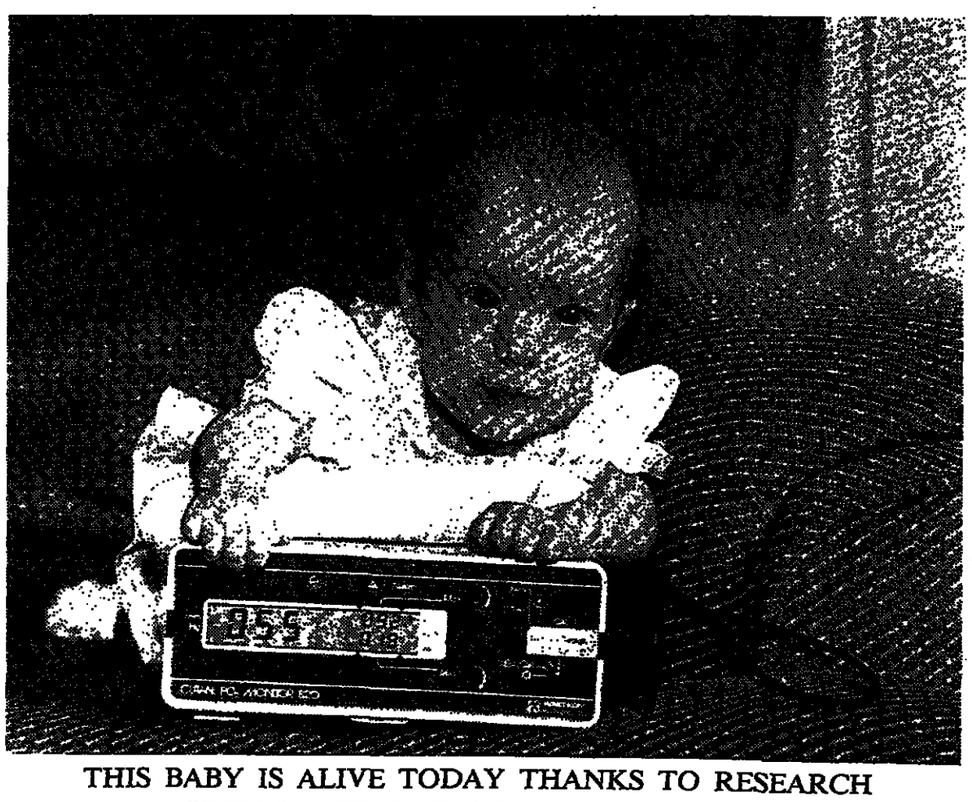
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Computer alarms save babies from cot deaths

Researchers can now help children at risk, writes Thomson Prentice

Every year in Britain, 1,500 families are devastated by the sudden, inexplicable death of a baby. Despite the efforts of doctors and scientists, cot deaths have remained until recently a heartbreaking mystery.

Researchers at the Royal Brompton have discovered one of the causes of these deaths. At the same time, they are developing effective methods which may prevent some of the tragedies.

The cause has emerged from studies at the hospital, during the past 18 months, of 350 babies who have had narrow escapes from cot death. The babies were referred to the hospital because of its reputation as one of the world's leading cot death research centres.

The work has been led by Dr David Southall, a consultant paediatrician. He and his colleague, Dr Martin Samuels, together with Dr David Talbert, of the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith, west London, found that among the babies was a sub-group of about 50 that had had recurrent "near death" episodes, during which they went blue and became unconscious.

When they looked at these infants in great detail, they found a sinister common factor. Severe disturbances had occurred in the control of blood supply through the babies' lungs. Instead of being oxygenated by the lungs, the blood was bypassing the gas-exchanging tissues, producing a dramatic and potentially fatal drop in blood oxygen.

"There is absolutely no doubt that this is one of the underlying mechanisms of sudden infant deaths," Dr Southall says. Such episodes are often signalled by the baby uttering one startled cry, followed by silence.

The finding is one of the most important in the long and frustrating history of scientific investigations into cot deaths. But why should such a disturbance take place?

"We know it is brought on, or made worse, by an infection, and by a fall in the oxygen levels in the ambient air around the baby," Dr Southall says. The bacterium that causes whooping cough is another contributor. "The blood supply is also profoundly affected if the child is upset or angry, startled or frightened," Dr Southall adds.

He and Dr Samuels, a lecturer in paediatrics at the hospital, have found that giving the drug clonidine and administering oxygen into the baby's nostrils may combat the symptoms. Clonidine, sometimes used to treat migraine in children, modifies nerve impulses from the brain to the blood vessels in the lungs, allowing the blood to be oxygenated normally.

In a life-saving extension to their studies, the specialists have provided parents of high-risk babies with monitors, costing about £2,000, that continuously measure oxygen levels on the skin, and set off an alarm if there is a dangerous drop. The parents keep the monitors until the baby is about nine months old. Cot deaths are rare after this age.

About 400 babies have been protected in this way. Dr Southall and colleagues have developed a battery-powered computer that can be linked to the monitor at the infant's cot. As well as recording the oxygen levels, it chronicles the baby's heartbeat and its breathing.

"We already have from the computers a number of documented cases of near-death episodes, and the underlying mechanism that disturbs blood oxygen is common to many of them," Dr Southall says.

● *The author is Medical Correspondent of* The Times.

MARC ASPLAND



Safe in bed: baby Ashleigh Jade Wilkes with Dr Samuels (left) and Dr Southall

On the trail of the great heartbreaker

Screening for one of the danger signs, blocked arteries, may soon be possible

A multi-million pound project is leading the way towards detecting, in its beginnings, one of the nation's biggest killers, blocked arteries. Screening people will be possible "well within the next five years", says Professor Donald Longmore, professor of magnetic resonance in medicine at the Royal Brompton, who adds: "We are already doing it tentatively."

Professor Longmore set up the MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) department at the Royal Brompton in 1984 as a result of two discoveries in 1976 "that seemed to me to be about to change the face of medicine". One was the discovery of prostacyclin, the substance that stops blood clogging up within the human body, the other the production of the first human nuclear magnetic resonance machine.

"I thought that as a result of these we had the beginnings of the possibilities of a new era in medicine of preventing the disease that kills half of us — blocked arteries, killing the heart or the head," he says.

While trying to raise funding for the Brompton project, Professor Longmore did research at the Hammersmith hospital in London, which had an MR machine. He was one of the team that pioneered heart scanning and the measurement of blood flow.

The next year, he started a joint venture between the Corda charity (the Coronary Artery Disease Research Association), the Brompton and British industry to build an MR scanner for the heart.

The MRI unit demonstrates the interaction between the hospital and the institute. The unit's work is broadly divided into three areas: basic physics research, clinical science — "looking at normal people to try out the ideas the physicists have developed" — and clinical practice for patients at the hospital. The scientific team includes Sir Godfrey Hounsfield, the Nobel prize-winner who invented the computerised tomography (CT) scanner.

Professor Longmore says that MRI is "right at the edge of man's understanding of physics". Broadly, it works as follows: nuclei (the centres of atoms in the body) spin on their axes at about a billion billion revolutions a minute. Some of these nuclei carry a positive electric charge; with the high-speed spin, the charge is turned into a magnet, causing the nuclei to line up in a magnetic field, rather like compass needles in the Earth's magnetic field.

If people are placed within a magnetic field that is more powerful than the Earth's, such as the MR machine, the nuclei will line up with that. They will also wobble like a child's top that has been pushed sideways and, in doing so, emit signals in a radio frequency band.

The radio signals they give out are in direct relationship to the strength of the magnetic field. By altering the strength, the signals automatically adjust to match it. So, by making each part of the body have a unique magnetic field strength, the scientist can listen to the radio signals and know where they are coming from. From that, "maps" can be created of people's insides.

"It is all harmless," Professor Longmore says. "There are no x-rays, no nuclear isotopes, nothing."

One question to be answered is whether, if people change their lifestyle to reduce the known risk factors, the natural course of heart disease will be altered.

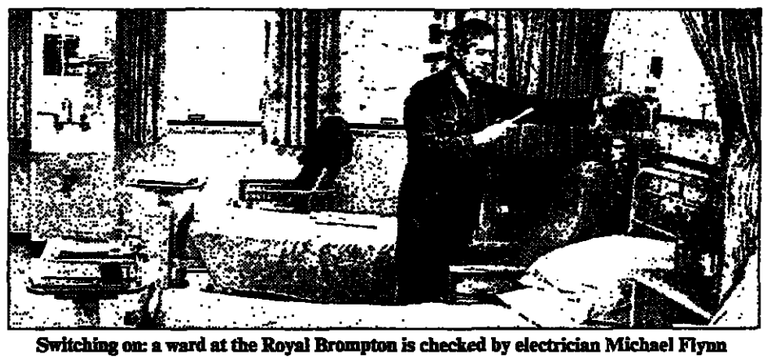
"My real intention is not to use this as a diagnostic machine," Professor Longmore says. "I am trying to develop it as a preventive instrument, so we can look at normal healthy people and study their circulation and try to detect arterial disease before it gets set." A thousand "normal people" studies had already been carried out.

Before population screening becomes a reality, however, a technical breakthrough is needed to allow faster imaging and a better method of looking at the coronary arteries to the heart, he says. "We are going to have the means to do that when we have conquered the last few technical problems.

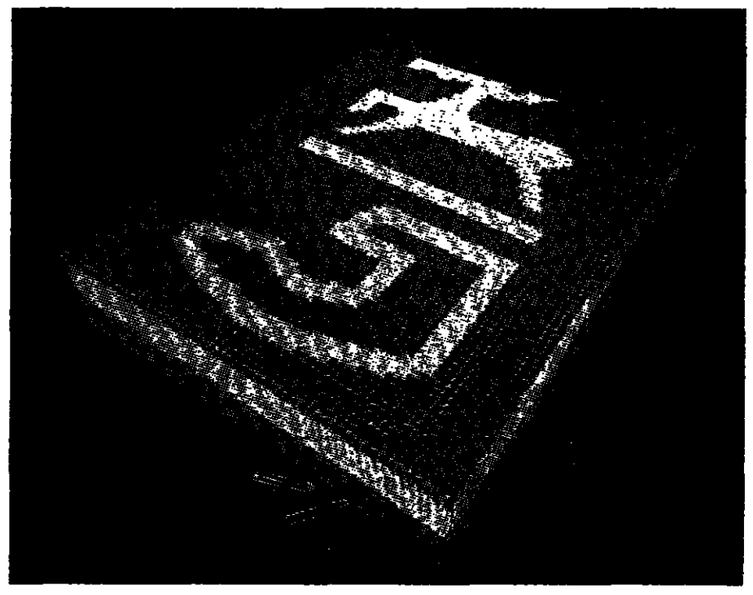
"We can do the carotid arteries to the head and the major vessels in the body, and we can study the damage to the heart, using drug trials. But we have not yet got the key element, which is measuring the blood flow to heart directly." To that end, a £5 million fund-raising appeal is to be launched to develop the necessary machine.

In all this, a problem is to keep the research funding going. "Making sure the money comes in is a huge slog — and it is not easy in Britain," Professor Longmore says. "The other problem is that in this country we pioneer things but there is no proper national support. So we see our lead eroded by the Americans and the Japanese."

PAT BLAIR



Switching on: a ward at the Royal Brompton is checked by electrician Michael Flynn



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Journey to the centre of the body

The hospital has Britain's only Imatron, the £1.5 million scanner considered to be the best available. Pat Blair reports

For state-of-the-art equipment, the Royal Brompton National Heart and Lung Hospital is among the front-liners, in no area more so than radiology.

Many hospitals now have the computerised tomography (CT) scanner that took diagnosis to new heights. The Royal Brompton has the distinction of being the only British hospital with an Imatron, "unquestionably the most advanced CT scanner there is", according to Dr Simon Rees, who heads the radiology department.

The concept is that of Sir Godfrey Hounsfield, the inventor of the CT scanner.

Like the CT scanner, the £1.5 million Imatron produces pictures that look like slices of the body. It can collect data to produce the "slices" in a twentieth of a second. Not only can it halve the total time it takes to scan patients, the Imatron's shorter exposure has revolutionised chest scanning, Dr Rees says.

With conventional CT scanning, pictures of the heart are blurred, because of the heart's movement. The Imatron's speed produces an extraordinarily sharp picture.

The machine enables doctors to look at such things as how blood flows through the muscle of the heart, and how it is affected by coronary disease. "You can plot a map of the bits that are not getting enough blood," says Dr Rees, who calls it "a very exciting machine". Because of its speed, it can take pictures while patients do exercise tests and is, he says, increasing the options for investigating coronary disease.

In addition, it has improved the way in which doctors investigate people with lung problems — the quality of images is much better and the radiation dose is lower, down by 50 per cent in adults.

A further advantage is that in paediatric medicine it removes the need for general sedation. Dr Rees says: "If you wanted to get pictures of children who were wriggling, hitherto you have had to give them a general anaesthetic."

The machine was acquired by persuading a private company to buy it and allow the hospital to run it as a commercial venture. With government changes imminent in the NHS — turning it into an organisation of "providers" and "purchasers" — the Royal Brompton can become a provider from which the service of the Imatron can be bought by other hospitals, public and private.

"To make it pay, we are going to have to be dependent on the private sector to some extent," Dr Rees says.

In cardiology, meanwhile, doctors no longer need to use cine film to take pictures before a coronary by-pass operation or angioplasty.

"We have gone over to using, for the first time in the world, a filmless system, with video only," Dr Rees says. "The video is of very high quality. There are two laboratories equipped to this standard, and a third in which we are going into the field of peripheral vascular disease."

The hospital has therefore raised funds to buy the most advanced Doppler ultrasound, which can tell doctors how blood is flowing through an artery.

In intensive care, patients often need to have frequent x-rays, and it is technically difficult to get the correct exposures. It can be awkward to get the films underneath supine patients. The hospital has the country's first computerised digital x-ray system, a £100,000 machine made by Fuji, the photographic company, for which it is being evaluated.

Dr Rees says: "Having taken the film, you put the plate in a computer where it extracts the information, then automatically produces an image which has the correct exposure. This also means that you can deliberately underexpose the film, reduce the radiation to the patient by 50 per cent and still get the perfect image."

Another "even more ingenious" chest x-ray device being evaluated, this time for Kodak, is Amber (advanced multiple beam equalisation radiography).

With Amber, a microcomputer makes adjustments according to the mass being x-rayed — for example, greater exposure for the heart, less for the lungs.

The result is an evenly exposed plate that reveals the maximum amount of information for all areas of the chest: another weapon in the medical armoury to diagnose, and treat better, patients with heart or lung disease.

MARC ASPLAND



Scanning advance: the Imatron, demonstrated by Dr Simon Rees

Doctors struggle to fight a ruinous inheritance

Cystic fibrosis victims now live to adulthood thanks to advances

When Margaret Hodson was a medical student 25 years ago, the only cystic fibrosis patients she saw were small children. Sufferers of this cruel, inherited disease didn't live long enough to become adults.

Today Dr Hodson, a consultant physician, is director of the cystic fibrosis department at the Royal Brompton, and there are about 1,500 adult cystic fibrosis patients in Britain, many of them now married with children of their own.

"The improvements in diagnosis and treatment in the last ten or 15 years have been extraordinary, and the quality of life of people with cystic fibrosis is immeasurably better," Dr Hodson says.

"Fifty years ago, eight out of ten children born with the disease died within a year. Nowadays, such children can grow up, have full-time education, be fully employed and look forward to a long life."

Much of this progress is due to pioneering work done at the Royal Brompton, which has the largest adult clinical service in Europe for patients with the disorder and takes referrals from all over Britain.

Cystic fibrosis is caused by a defective gene that particularly affects the lungs, causing chronic infections, and the digestive system, which becomes unable to absorb fats and other nutrients from food. The gene is carried symptomlessly by about one person in 25. If a couple who are both carriers have a baby, the child has a one in four chance of inheriting the defect and being born with the disease.

Although the condition is sometimes obvious soon after birth, in many cases it escapes detection for months or even years. Often the child's growth is stunted and the sufferer is vulnerable to recurrent chest infections, causing constant coughing and shortage of breath.

The Royal Brompton plays a leading role in research into the condition, investigating the gene, and refining treatments for patients. The use of a wide range of antibiotics has dramatically improved the outlook for sufferers since about 1975, but the most striking advance in treatment is heart-lung transplants for sufferers, first performed only five years ago.

Due largely to the skills of transplant surgeon Professor Magdi Yacoub and colleagues, the hospital, in conjunction with Harefield Hospital, west London, has performed more of these operations than any other centre in the world. The longest surviving patients have celebrated their fourth anniversary of the operation, and about 70 per cent survive one or two years.

"This is a life-saving option for some of our sickest patients, but it is not appropriate for most sufferers, and there is a constant shortage of donor organs," Dr Hodson says. "The operation is suitable only for a severely ill patient who has received all other forms of conventional treatment without improvement."

During the operation, the diseased lungs and the heart are removed, and a new heart and two lungs are stitched into place. Most recipients donate the heart they no longer need to another patient with heart failure, who is waiting in an adjacent theatre. This process of saving two lives simultaneously is called a "domino" operation. In some cases, only a lung transplant is carried out.

Only about 100 heart-lung grafts for cystic fibrosis sufferers have been performed in Britain. The hospital currently treats about 800 cases a year.

Most CF patients need to have physiotherapy twice a day to drain the abnormal mucus that gathers in their lungs. Increasingly, treatment is being offered at home, rather than in hospital.

THOMSON PRENTICE

Ready for the war's casualties

Intensive care units are on standby

IN AN institution that deals with heart and lung problems in patients from a day old to those of advanced years, intensive care plays an important part. The Royal Brompton's paediatric department runs its own 26-bed intensive care unit (ICU), while the 20-bed ICU for adults is run by Dr Cliff Morgan, a consultant anaesthetist.

The surgical ICU is aimed at the needs of patients recovering from relatively uncomplicated open heart and chest surgery, and caters for a period of up to 48 hours *(Pat Blair writes)*. "If those patients fail to thrive," Dr Morgan says, "they need to be transferred to the intensive care team."

Patients transferred are those who have failed to make routine recoveries, those who have suffered setbacks, those who are "predictably desperately ill" from the outset of surgery, together with patients with heart and lung disease directly referred from outside hospitals.

Intensive care places heavy demands on nursing staff. According to Jenny Hunt, the hospital's chief nurse, it takes the time equivalent of about six nurses to keep one intensive care bed available for use. "We have sufficient establishment nursing staff to run between 12 and 14 of the beds," Dr Morgan says. "We are looking at ways, involving agency staff and other sources of funding, of boosting it to 16."

The six adult beds not yet opened will be available to receive any casualties from the Gulf war, if the hospital, which is on standby, is called on to use its expertise and advanced equipment to treat the war wounded.

The ICU is preparing to install a fully computerised system, with a terminal at every bedside, so nursing and medical staff will no longer have to transfer to manual charts all the readings from the multiplicity of equipment attached to each patient and displayed on the video screen beside the head of every bed.

When the system has been fully tested and refined, it may help to relieve the shortage of trained nursing staff available in intensive care.

The system should, Dr Morgan adds, allow nurses time "to look for trouble, rather than deal with it when it has arrived". Equally important, it should allow nurses time to explain to patients' relations what is happening.

"Nurses play a vital role in providing information and reassurance and detecting when there is false optimism — or false pessimism," he says. "They can do that only if they have time."

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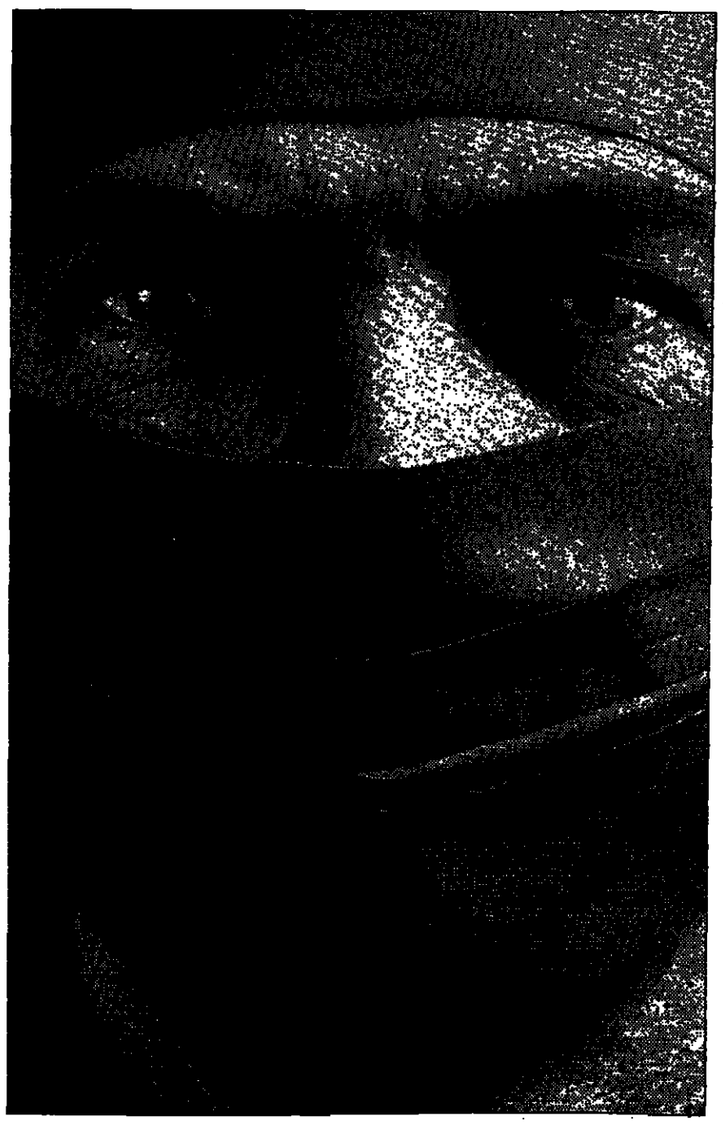
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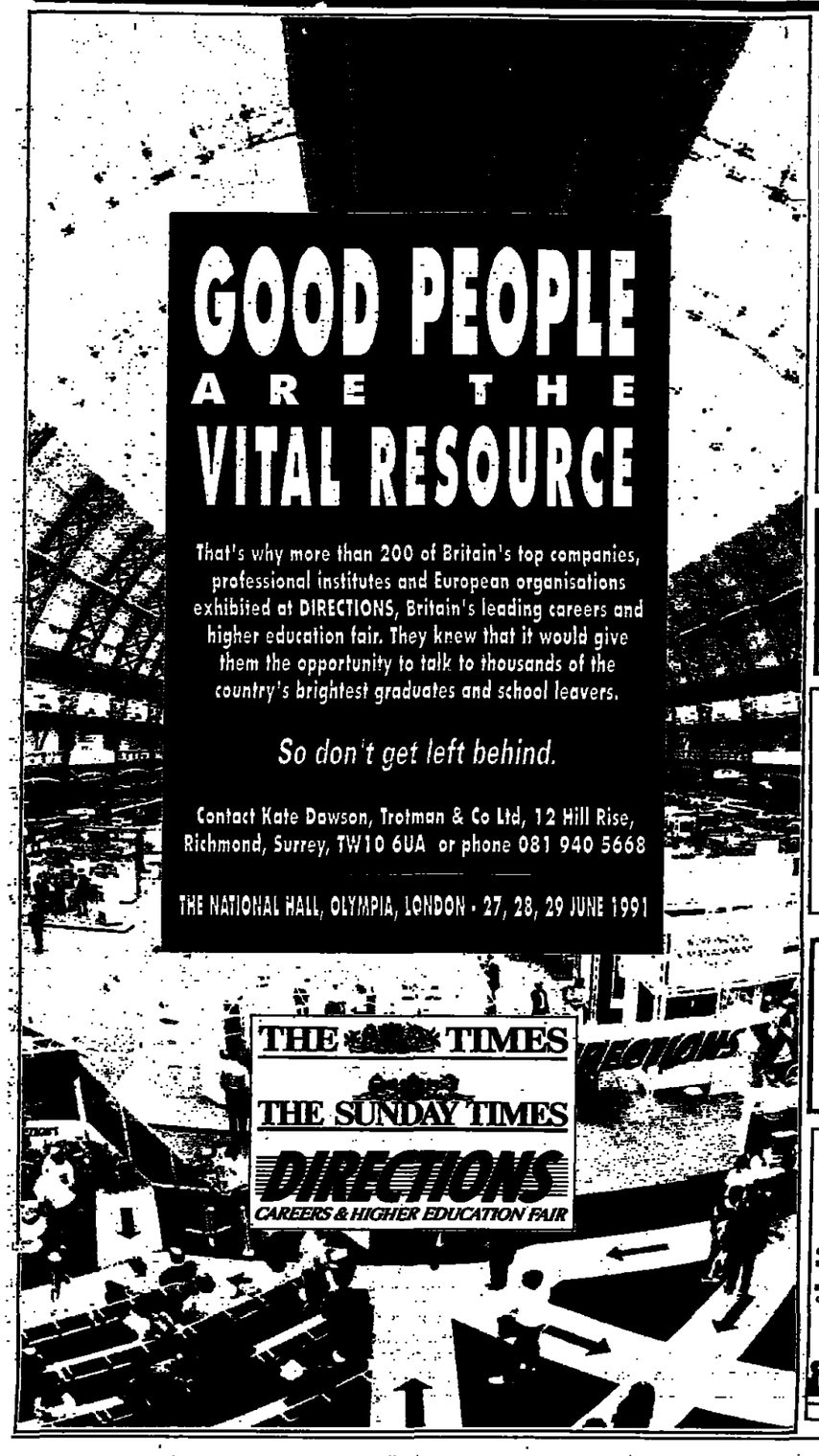
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THE TIMES

RUGBY UNION

Clubs show interest in an increase in local TV coverage

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE decision to award the television contract for domestic rugby to the BBC will offer viewers the chance of a direct comparison between the two main channels in the autumn, since ITV have the contract for the World Cup in October. None will be watching more carefully than the representatives of England's senior clubs, whose association has recently formed a marketing sub-committee.

The fact that the BBC will be televising five nations' championship matches and leading tour matches, as well as a weekly magazine programme, for the next three years does not preclude secondary contracts being established on a regional basis. This has long been the case in Wales, where HTV has been able to show club rugby, provided that BBC has had first choice of games; and TSW covered last Saturday's game at Redruth between Cornwall and Warwickshire.

The leading English clubs have been disappointed not to have had a greater input to the new contract. "Obviously, we could not expect to be a party to the negotiations between the rival channels and the television committee of the four home unions because we are only one sector of the game," Neil Hannah, from Nottingham, who is chairman of the Senior Clubs Association, said.

"This year we have had some modest dialogue with Dudley Wood [secretary of the Rugby Football Union] but we were disappointed not to have been asked for a considerable input. The BBC, apart from the internationals, haven't done much for the profile of the game and it will be interesting to make a direct comparison."

There would seem to be good reason for this, disappointed though ITV was not to be awarded the domestic contract. They will have worked up their own team of presenters, who will be equally concerned that they do not occupy a prime slot for the month of the World Cup and then disappear into a void.

Within the last two years, the major Midlands clubs have discussed with Central Television the possibility of a floodlit cup — though the absence of a sponsor proved a critical factor. There has also been consideration of switching one big game a week to a Monday evening if that were to offer a live televised spot and, according to Hannah, players and clubs would not object.

The new factor in all this, too, is the professional club administrator: some are concerned with coaching, some with commerce, and more will arrive in the game. The marketing representatives of the senior clubs, across the three national divisions, are already exchanging information on such vital topics as gates and sponsorship.

"Any television arrangements have to have RFU permission," Wood said. "The arrangement with the BBC on the core contract gives the BBC the right to internationals and 30 Rugby Special-type programmes. They have first choice of matches but what we do with anything else is open to us. We would welcome ITV interest on a local basis."

The new agreement, which cost the BBC £10.1 million as opposed to £4.4 million for the three years ending on April 30, does not include satellite or cable television, overseas rights or videos.

Pickup at lock against Scottish Universities

By DAVID HANDS

IAN Pickup, who played for Warwickshire in their county championship semi-final against Cornwall last weekend, will lead the English Universities against the Scottish Universities at Old Deer Park on February 15. But Pickup, who played No. 8 for the county, will be at lock on this occasion.

The fixture with Wales last month had to be called off, because of heavy rain, since when Graeme Aitchison, the Newcastle full back, has opted for the Scottish Students so Ian McLeod, of Bristol, moves to his place. Niall Malone, who was an influential member of Ireland's team in their under-21 international with England in October, is at stand-off half alongside the former England Schools scrum half, Kieron Bracken.

The Commercial Union UAU semi-finals will both be decided in the West Country next week. Exeter meet Swansea on Bristol's ground, while Loughborough, the holders, and Cardiff meet at Cinderford.

ENGLISH UNIVERSITIES: I McLeod (Bristol); D Cottrell (Exeter), J Flint, J Webster (Nottingham), S Bracegirdle (Salford); N Malone (Loughborough), K Bracken (Bristol); P Morris (Exeter), A Field (Nottingham), J Pike (Exeter), E Forster (Liverpool), I Pickup (Warwick, captain), A Moss (Bristol), N Richardson, E Peters (Loughborough). Replacements: T Hillier (Reading), D Willett (Exeter), A Hetherington (Newcastle), M Winn (Exeter), A Cassidy (Bristol), P McCoy (Liverpool).

Covi will lead Italy B team at Waterloo

THE Italian Rugby Federation has announced a powerful B squad containing 12 full internationals for the game against England B in Waterloo on February 12 (Chris Thau writes). The Parma No. 8, Corrado Covi, the captain of the national team making his comeback after a long layoff, will captain the side.

Italy play England in the same pool in the World Cup and most of the players in the squad are in contention for a place in their cup party.

ITALIAN SQUAD: A Botachiari, M Brunello, L Capitani, S Cibin, C Covi (captain), R Di Bernardo, M Di Stefani, D Dominguez, F Gaetaniello, M Gerdin, M Giovanelli, L Manteri, A Marangoni, P Pedroni, F Pietrosanti, F Properzi, G Rossi, D Tebaldi, M Tomasi, P Vacari, M Visentin.

SPORTS LETTERS

A thoroughly British habit

From Mr N. W. P. Cole

Sir, Simon Barnes (Comment, January 30) is quite right in saying there exists in America a much closer relationship between athletes and journalists than in the United Kingdom. However, in my experience of American journalism, I have not come across papers which regularly indulge in the British habit of building up heroes purely in order to publicly destroy and humiliate them.

I can think of no equivalent American examples of press coverage such as the hounding of Bobby Robson, with demands for his departure "in the name of God"; or of the sheer vindictiveness levelled at David Gower when captain of England; or of the squalid muck-raking which precipitated Mike Gatting's downfall as captain.

American journalists covering the Super Bowl or the World Series may indulge in reporting trivia, but at least they also report the sport itself. They are not sent on tour with a brief to "forget the game, get as much scandal as you can find".

British sportsmen today by and large distrust the media, the tabloid press in particular. When one examines the behaviour and motives of those newspapers, the reasons for this lack of trust are obvious. Only when British journalism (with some notable exceptions) gets its own house in order will a spirit of openness and co-operation have a chance to establish itself.

Yours faithfully,
N. W. P. COLE,
4 Thruxton Close,
Alvaston, Derbyshire.

Olympic confusion

From the Chairman of the Sports Council

Sir, David Miller's article (February 4) on the competing bids submitted to the British Olympic Association (BOA) for staging the Olympic Games in this country in 2000 confuses the London Regional Council for Sport and Recreation — of which I am a former chairman — with the (GB) Sports Council.

The latter, unlike the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR), has taken no view whatsoever upon the respective merits of the bids from London and Manchester. Of course the Sports Council has been, and remains, ready to help anyone seeking our advice — and that has included the Manchester team — but we have in no way aligned ourselves with any particular bid.

The London Regional Council comprises representatives of the 32 London boroughs (of all major political persuasions) and of local sports bodies. It answers directly to the minister for sport. The fact that its secretary, Andy Sutch, is a Sports Council employee is a matter of administrative convenience only.

He has to my knowledge been scrupulous in keeping the limits of his responsibility clearly in front of the London Regional Council members. At no time has he committed the Sports Council to any particular point of view; nor have we seen any reason to ask him to "soft pedal his support". He will continue to provide administrative backing to the London Regional Council for as long as they wish to use his services. However, unlike the general secretary of the CCPR, there is no question of his being a director of a bidding company.

The Sports Council awaits the outcome of this competition with interest. We applaud the BOA's initiative in setting clear conditions for checking the acceptability of an Olympic bid, and we trust that they will be rigorously applied.

Yours faithfully,
PETER YARRANTON,
Chairman, The Sports Council,
16 Upper Woburn Place, WC1.

From Mr Tom Pendry, MP for Stalybridge and Hyde (Labour)

Sir, I was both surprised and dismayed to read the claim that I had "criticised within the London councils group" my colleague Kate Hoey's attempts to help in the formulation of a London Olympic bid.

I have never voiced any such criticism, either in public or in private, and that, far from regretting Ms Hoey's involvement, I wholeheartedly "welcome the willingness of London MPs to do what they can to aid sport in their area.

Indeed, one of the few criticisms that I have made of the otherwise excellent Olympic bid mounted last year by Manchester was that the organisers omitted to make full use of their local sporting contacts in Parliament. Should Manchester again be chosen to lead the Olympic campaign for Britain, I trust that this is an extra source of support upon which the organisers would wish to draw.

Yours faithfully,
TOM PENDRY,
House of Commons.

Video replays will not help

From Mr Nigel L. Baker

Sir, Mr J. T. Beresford (Sports Letters, January 31) is mistaken in his belief that the use of video recall, followed by some kind of instant analysis by independent assessors, would improve refereeing standards in professional football.

Such a proposal would not have the widespread support of players and spectators and would be a retrograde step because it would pose more problems than it would solve.

The spectre of the use of the video replay facility at a match would undermine the authority of referees at a time when they are already facing something of a crisis in confidence.

However frustrating it is for players and spectators alike to be on the receiving end of an apparently erroneous refereeing decision, such decisions have always been tolerated, however unwelcome, as part of the game. What really angers both participants and spectators is the inconsistency in decisions rather than simply whether incidents are adjudged foul play or not.

Furthermore, television evidence frequently fails to provide conclusive proof on marginal incidents, and the validity of England's third World Cup final goal against West Germany is still uncertain despite 25 years of analysis and numerous camera angles.

The actual use of video replay during football matches would undoubtedly cause a hiatus in the game, breed further uncertainty, and lead to an inevitable distrust of the touchline arbitrators. This is in marked contrast to its use in American football, where there are frequent natural breaks in the continuity of play and where there are widespread facilities for showing the video replay to the crowd.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL L. BAKER,
6 Otley Road,
Harrogate,
North Yorkshire.

Rugby priorities

From Mr Ross Coad

Sir, Mr Sanders's letter (January 31) states that the Rugby Football Union (RFU) is reminding all concerned that it exists to provide a wholesome team sport for the vast body of young men who have to go to work on Monday morning.

I cannot reconcile this statement with the demands being made by the current regime in English rugby on the squad players. The treatment meted out to Will Carling by the London selectors when he was apparently in Glasgow trying to earn his living is only one such example.

If the RFU and its fellow authorities expect to come first, then they must not be surprised that the players want some recompense. I am amazed that employers go along with the present seasonal demands, never mind summer tours, trips to Lanzarote, etc.

Rugby union has always been a players' game and not a spectator sport — that's why there is no hooliganism — and the RFU and the International Board need to think long and hard before they turn this wonderful, clean, healthy and comradely sport into mere television fodder. Soon kick-offs will be at six minutes past to accommodate the ads!

Yours faithfully,
ROSS COAD,
26 St James' Street,
South Petherton, Somerset.

Improving Yorkshire fortunes

From Mr Ken Harvey

Sir, It would be foolish to put the blame for the decline in the fortunes of Yorkshire County Cricket Club on to one single cause, but cricket correspondents, informed observers, and even in-depth studies carried out on behalf of the club, have all arrived at one inevitable conclusion: the committee of 23 is far too large and needs restructuring. This, combined with a greater degree of commercial management, is vital if the club is to face the future with any degree of confidence.

Privately, many committee members would agree, but, understandably, fearing loss of their committee membership, will not take steps to bring this about. Therefore, the initiative must come from club members.

Mrs Brenda Smith and Dr Tony Chalk have now given members a wonderful opportunity to take a step in the right direction by proposing at this year's AGM that the committee will produce its own resolution for the 1992 AGM reducing the committee from 23 to 12.

The choice of method would be left entirely to the committee. It could recommend:

1. Retention of the district system, but with reduced numbers.
2. Election on a Ridings basis.
3. Election on a single constituency basis, or any other alternative method chosen by them.

Members would have absolutely nothing to lose by voting for the Chalk/Smith proposal as there would still be an opportunity at the 1992 AGM to ratify or reject the committee's proposals.

Despite an assurance given from the platform at the 1987 AGM that the committee would cease making recommendations on how to vote on members' resolutions, the committee has, in an act of self-preservation, recommended members to vote against the Chalk/Smith proposal on the spurious ground that it would mean the abolition of the district system.

In its desperate attempt to preserve the status quo the committee has used an unworthy tactic. Unless members are made fully aware of the merits of the proposal it will almost certainly be defeated by the proxy vote, but it will be a hollow victory for the committee bringing no credit either to it or the club.

Mainly because of its off-the-field activities, this great club has been an object of ridicule for far too long. A smaller, less divided committee is a must. Obviously, this would not guarantee an improvement in playing performance, but an administratively well-run club will certainly improve prospects, not lessen them.

Yours faithfully,
KEN HARVEY,
5 St Margaret's Drive,
Gledhow Lane,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.

On equal terms

From Mr Kenneth E. Pottle

Sir, You report (January 31) that women golfers want more difficult courses. It seems that the game is made too easy for them.

I suggest an end to the positive discrimination at most clubs, where women's tees should be removed and handicaps adjusted to allow them to play from men's front tees. This will remove some of the clutter on courses and allow women to compete on equal terms.

The golf ball, well timed and sweetly struck, flies a great distance without force or male strength; some male players will also be given a greater challenge.

This could lead to women-only golf clubs where the course is short or less demanding, and possibly some courses will suit beginners, women and men.

Yours truly,
KENNETH E. POTTLE,
17 Winchards,
Basildon, Essex.

Fun and flair

From Mr Phillip Hodson

Sir, I have followed the fortunes of the England cricket team since 1949 when I was three. Before the knives do their work at Lord's, I would like to explain to the likes of Mr Stewart, the manager, and Mr Gooch, the captain, that the reason for my interest and that of many others is not whether England wins or works hard or resembles a clutch of PT instructors on parade.

The reason why I watch is for the excitements and grace of the drama of play. I will always pay to see Gower and Botham batting but would never dream of crossing the road to watch many of the available alternatives. Cricket is about fun and flair, not blood, toil, tears and sweat. Leave that to the footballers and the soldiers.

Sincerely,
PHILLIP HODSON,
58 The Pryors,
East Heath Road, NW3.

Uncertain form

From Mr Brian Clemence

Sir, It was grand to note that, at the Bangor on Dee meeting on February 1, five of the races were named after books by Dick Francis.

The result of the Dead Cert Novices Selling Hurdle was in typical Dick Francis vein. The winner by 12 lengths was Peak District, at a price of 20 to 1, and with form of F-000.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN CLEMENCE,
23 Glastonbury Close,
Hillcroft Park, Stafford.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046.

Law Report February 7 1991 Court of Appeal

National security non-justiciable exclusive responsibility of executive

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Cheblak

Before Lord Donaldson of Lymington, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Beldam and Lord Justice Nolan

[Reasons February 6]

Where "reasons of national security" were given by the Home Secretary as a statement of the reasons for a decision to deport a foreign national living in the United Kingdom on the ground that his deportation was conducive to the public good, section 18(1)(b) of the Immigration Act 1971 and regulation 4(1)(a) of the Immigration Appeals (Notices) Regulations (SI 1984 No 2040) had been complied with.

Further, given the secretary of state's powers under the Act and since national security was exclusively the responsibility of the Executive, the court would not enquire into the facts upon which he had relied, particularly where there was evidence that further details could not be disclosed without an unacceptable risk to security.

The panel established under the Home Secretary's non-statutory procedure, over which the court retained a supervisory jurisdiction, provided an appropriate vehicle for the investigation of such a prospective deportee's case.

The Court of Appeal so stated giving reasons for its decision on February 1 for (i) dismissing Mr Abbas Cheblak's appeal from Mr Justice Simon Brown who had dismissed his application for a writ of *habeas corpus* and (ii) refusing to grant Mr Cheblak's renewed application for leave to apply for judicial review of the Home Secretary's decision that his deportation was conducive to the public good for reasons of national security.

Mr Eugene Cotran, Mr Alper Riza and Mr Michael Massih for Mr Cheblak; Mr John Laws and Miss Alison Foster for the Home Secretary.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that it was important that the public should know that the existence of the hostilities in the Gulf in support of United Nations resolutions had no effect whatsoever on the administration of justice here.

Unless and until Parliament altered the law, the courts would continue to approach appeals and applications such as the present in precisely the same way as they would have done before the hostilities began.

It was untrue to assert that British justice must figure among the first casualites of the Gulf war. Whatever criticisms might be levelled at British justice, they could have as forcefully been made been before the outbreak of hostilities as after, because there had been no change.

Mr Cheblak had sought two forms of relief which were essentially different although inter-related on the facts.

Habeas corpus

His Lordship said that on the hearing before Mr Justice Simon Brown, the Home Secretary amplified his original statement that Mr Cheblak's deportation would be conducive to the public good for reasons of national security by adding that he was known to have links with an unspecified organisation which the Home Secretary believed could, or would, take terrorist action against Western targets if hostilities were to break out in the Gulf.

The effect of the statutory framework as provided by the Immigration Act 1971 was that if the Home Secretary decided to make a deportation order under section 5(1) against a person liable to deportation under section 3(5), that person might lawfully be detained under the Home Secretary's authority provided that notice had been given to him in accordance with regulations made under section 18 of the Act and any person so detained was deemed to be in legal custody.

Since the foundation for an application for a writ of *habeas corpus* was the fact that he was being detained otherwise than in legal custody, it was necessary to enquire whether those conditions were met. With the exception of the requirement as to notice it was conceded that all conditions were met.

By section 18, the secretary of state might by regulation provide (a) for written notice to be given to a person of any such decision as was appealable (whether or not he was on the facts of his case entitled to appeal) or would be so appealable but for the ground on which it was taken; (b) for any such notice to include a statement of the reasons for the decision.

The decision to deport Mr Cheblak was not appealable because it was taken on the ground that his deportation was conducive to the public good for reasons of national security.

By section 15(3) there was no appeal where "the ground of the decision was that his deportation is conducive to the public good as being in the interests of national security . . ."

Regulation 3 of the 1984 Regulations provided that ". . . written notice of any decision . . . which is appealable (or would be appealable but for the ground of the decision . . .) shall as soon as practicable be given . . . to the person in respect of whom the decision . . . was taken".

By regulation 4(1) ". . . any notice given under regulation 3 shall (a) include a statement of the reasons for the decision . . . to which it relates".

It was submitted for Mr Cheblak that "reasons of national security" were insufficient to satisfy the requirements of regulation 4(1)(a). That alone was the basis for the claim to be entitled to a writ of *habeas corpus*.

Mr Riza conceded that in the context of rights of appeal to an adjudicator, section 15(3) made a clear distinction between the ground of the decision to deport and the reason for deciding to deport on that ground, that the ground was deportation "conducive to the public good" and that there was no right of appeal where the reason for such deportation was the interests of national security.

But he submitted that "ground" in section 18(1)(a) must have a different meaning which not only included the ground of being "conducive to the public good" but also one of the classes of reason which rendered the decision to deport unappealable.

If "ground" had that extended meaning, in his submission "the reasons" in section 18(1)(b) and paragraph 4 must refer to reasons other than and in addition to those reasons which distinguished appealable from unappealable decisions to deport on the ground that that course was conducive to the public good.

His Lordship rejected the argument. Parliament had chosen to make a division between appealable and unappealable decisions not solely on the basis of the broad ground on which the decision was taken but also, in the case of "conducive" decisions, of the reasons.

In that context, reasons were used adjectivally to qualify the ground. As such it was still a ground for the purposes of section 18(1)(a) and it remained a reason for section 18(1)(b) and regulation 4.

Judicial review

Judicial review was a supervisory, not an appellate jurisdiction.

Parliament had entrusted the secretary of state with the duty of deciding whether or not to make deportation orders and, in cases like the present, had expressly excluded any right of appeal.

Despite that exclusion, in 1971 the Home Secretary had established a non-statutory procedure whereby he could be advised on whether or not he should rescind or modify a decision to deport in cases where no right of appeal existed.

His Lordship set out the statement made to the House of Commons announcing the procedure which was now enshrined in paragraph 157 of *Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules* (HC 251, 1990) and could not be withdrawn without notice.

The Home Secretary was fully accountable to Parliament for his decisions whether to deport and as part of that accountability for any failure to heed the advice of the non-statutory panel. He was also subject to the jurisdiction of the court in respect of alleged arrests without authority or due process.

But the exercise of that jurisdiction in cases of national security was necessarily restricted by the nature of the subject matter. National security was the exclusive responsibility of the Executive. It was *par excellence* a non-justiciable question.

The supervisory jurisdiction of the courts also extended to the decisions of the advisory panel, in so far at least as it might be alleged that it acted unfairly, taking account of the fact that its procedures must necessarily be tailored to the unique nature of the subject matter of its remit.

Mr Cheblak sought to invoke the jurisdiction of the court on three grounds. The first was that there had been a failure to give further reasons.

His Lordship referred to the amplified reasons given by the Home Secretary and to the evidence on his behalf that further details could not be disclosed because to do so would prove an unacceptable risk to national security.

There was no suggestion that he was acting otherwise than in the utmost good faith. The court was therefore faced with a collision between two imperatives, the rights of the individual citizen and the needs of national security.

His Lordship set out Lord Justice Geoffrey Lane's analysis of the problem in *Hosenball v DPP* ([1977] 1 WLR 766, 783-784).

The problem might well appear insoluble if approached through the insular and blinkered eyes of those who regarded the adversarial system of justice as the only one worthy of the name. There were other systems, widely accepted as just elsewhere, including on the Continent of Europe.

There the judge or tribunal was not a passive spectator and the essence of the system was judicial investigation. The approach adopted by the Home Secretary's panel was best described as an "independent quasi-judicial scrutiny".

The members all had the necessary security clearance to enable them to take an active role in questioning and evaluating the weight of the material forming the basis of the Home Secretary's initial decision.

Similarly, they would seek to discover and evaluate the countervailing material which the detainee might wish to put forward.

While that part of their task which involved the protection of the rights of the individual would be easier to perform if they could reveal to the detainee all that had become known to them, it was by no means impossible to perform it effectively where they could not do so.

It was always possible for the panel members to ask questions in a form which was itself not informative, but led the detainee on to giving as full an account as he wished of his contacts and activities in areas relevant to the Home Secretary's decision.

His Lordship also rejected Mr Cheblak's second and third grounds of challenge that the Home Secretary had failed to take account of all relevant circumstances and that he had reached an irrational decision.

His Lordship said that the judicial system did not consist simply of the courts, but included a multitude of specialist tribunals and panels each with its own remit.

That made sense, specialisation making for better, cheaper and quicker decision making. Some hearings were open to the public, others involving intimate personal matters were not. Most permitted representation by lawyers, but it was not self-evident that that was an advantage.

Members of an experienced specialist tribunal or panel adopting a "hands on" approach might well be able to reach the right conclusion just as often, and much more cheaply and quickly, without as with such formal representation.

Judges did not wash their hands of matters referred to those panels. The court always retained a supervisory jurisdiction designed to ensure that their proceedings were fairly and properly conducted in accordance with the law.

The courts' jurisdiction had, however, never been all-embracing. In the case of national security the responsibility was exclusively that of the government of the day, but its powers were limited by statute and the courts would intervene if it were shown that the minister responsible had acted otherwise than in good faith or had overstepped the limitations of his authority imposed by the law.

His Lordship had no doubt that the advisory panel was susceptible of judicial review if, for example, it could be shown to have acted unfairly within its terms of reference. That its decisions operated as recommendations might well be intended to reflect the ultimate personal responsibility of the Home Secretary in so sensitive and important a field.

His Lordship strongly suspected that it represented a difference of form rather than of substance.

That legal representation was not permitted, although there appeared to be no objection to the prospective deportee being accompanied and assisted by a legally qualified friend, stemmed from the panel's terms of reference. If that were objectionable, it was a matter for Parliament and not the courts.

That the detainee was not entitled to the fullest particulars of allegations against him, would in other circumstances undoubtedly be objectionable as constituting a denial of natural justice. But natural justice had to take account of the realities and what would otherwise be a breach was not to be so considered if it was unavoidable.

It was not always unavoidable: see *dicta* of Lord Justice Geoffrey Lane in *Hosenball's* case, but his Lordship did not doubt that the panel would avoid it so far as consistent with the needs of national security.

Lord Justice Beldam and Lord Justice Nolan delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Jane Coker & Co, Tottenham; Treasury Solicitor.

Chief Rabbi not subject to judicial review

Ex parte Wachman

Before Mr Justice Simon Brown

[Judgment February 6]

The Chief Rabbi could not be subjected to judicial review in respect of the discharge of his essential functions as the spiritual head of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth.

Mr Justice Simon Brown so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division in refusing an application brought by Rabbi Ivan Wachman for leave to move for judicial review of the decision of the Chief Rabbi, Lord Jakobovits, that he did not regard Rabbi Wachman as fit to hold rabbinical office which led to his dismissal by the South Broughton Congregation.

Mr Roderick Carus, QC and Mr Michael J. Booth for Rabbi Wachman; Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr David Pannick for the Chief Rabbi.

MR JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that the Chief Rabbi was the spiritual head for all purposes in respect of all those within mainstream Orthodox Judaism.

The applicant was an orthodox rabbi appointed in 1972 to the South Broughton Synagogue in Manchester. Early in 1990 allegations, essentially of adultery, were raised against him. By letter dated May 8, 1990 the Chief Rabbi notified the applicant that he had appointed a commission to investigate those allegations. Meantime, he suspended the applicant from rabbinical activities.

On July 16, 1990 following a number of hearings the commission reported to the Chief Rabbi. It found the applicant guilty of serious conduct unbecoming of a rabbi and no longer religiously and morally fit to occupy his position as a rabbi.

By letter dated August 1, the decision sought to be challenged, the Chief Rabbi wrote to the president of the applicant's congregation accepting the commission's findings and stating, *inter alia*, that he no longer regarded Rabbi Wachman as morally and religiously fit to hold his rabbinical office.

On August 24, the executive and council of the South Broughton Synagogue passed a resolution to terminate Rabbi Wachman's employment and the members on September 11 passed the resolution.

The applicant contended that the Chief Rabbi's decision was flawed by both the conduct and the make-up of the commission. As his starting point Mr Carus took *Regina v Panel on Take-Overs and Mergers, Ex parte Datafin plc* ([1987] QB 815) and in particular the passage from the judgment of Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls: "Possibly the only essential elements are . . . a public element . . . and the exclusion . . . of bodies whose sole source of power is a consensual submission to its jurisdiction."

Mr Carus referred to a number of subsequent cases in which the court had applied that review jurisdiction to bodies which in earlier days would surely have been thought beyond its reach.

Mr Carus urged that justice required the court's jurisdiction to extend to this case. Were it otherwise, a minister of religion holding important office could be disqualified and dismissed from office and unable to pursue his vocation by a decision which might conceivably have been wholly unfairly arrived at, and yet be without any redress.

Returning to *Datafin* Mr Carus submitted (a) that the applicant could not be said to have consensually submitted to the Chief Rabbi's jurisdiction and (b) that there was a clear public element to that decision.

In response, Mr Beloff took three points:

1 Consensual submission

Mr Beloff submitted that the Chief Rabbi's role and authority was exercised only in respect of those persons and communities who chose to belong to the United Hebrew Congregations.

His Lordship preferred Mr Carus's submission that an orthodox rabbi was pursuing a vocation and had no choice but to accept the Chief Rabbi's disciplinary decisions.

However, it was perhaps artificial to regard that as a wholly distinct ground; rather it shaded into consideration of whether the body in question was fulfilling an essentially public duty and its decision was one having public law consequences.

2 Public element

To attract the court's supervisory jurisdiction there had not merely to be a public but potentially a governmental interest in the decision-making power in question.

Where non-governmental bodies had hitherto been held reviewable, they had generally been operating as an integral part of a regulatory system which, although itself non-statutory, was nevertheless supported by statutory powers and penalties clearly indicative of government concern.

It could not be suggested, Mr Beloff submitted and his Lordship accepted, that the Chief Rabbi performed public functions in the sense that he was regulating a field of public life and but for his offices the government would impose a statutory regime.

On the contrary, his functions were essentially intimate, spiritual and religious functions which the government could not and would not seek to discharge in his place were he to abdicate his regulatory responsibility.

3 Public policy

As Mr Beloff pointed out, the court would never be prepared to rule on questions of Jewish law. Mr Carus, recognising that propective difficulty said that the applicant would be prepared to rely solely upon the concept of natural justice.

But it would not always be easy to separate procedural complaints from consideration of substantive principles of Jewish law which might underlie them.

That consideration apart, the court was hardly in a position to regulate what was essentially a religious function, the determination whether someone was morally and religiously fit to carry out the spiritual and pastoral duties of his office.

Although the speeches of the House of Lords in *Leech v Deputy Governor of Parkhurst Prisoner* ([1988] AC 533) appeared to lend some support to Mr Beloff's submission that a court might decline to recognize a review jurisdiction for reasons of public policy, his Lordship preferred to regard those considerations as going instead to the question whether the Chief Rabbi's discharge of his religious functions had about it a truly public law character such as alone would attract the court's supervisory jurisdiction. His Lordship did not think it had.

Solicitors: Read Roper & Read, Manchester; Beachcroft Stanleys.

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Sing The Blues can collect for Benstead

By MANDARIN (MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

IN THE 36 years that he has held a licence John Benstead, the Epsom-based trainer, has handled numerous multiple winners, notably that great favourite of the sixties Operatic Society, who won so many races at Brighton that they named a race after him there.

Now Benstead has another prolific winner in his yard, Sing The Blues who, should he succeed in winning the Jervis Handicap Hurdle under top weight at Lingfield Park today, will be recording his seventh win over the course and distance and his eighth there in all.

That achievement is all the more remarkable as this is only the second season during which jumping has taken place on the all-weather surface on the Surrey track.

Last winter, Sing The Blues was beaten only once there and that was when he arguably found 2½ miles too far on his final appearance. This season, he has been kept to two miles the twice that he has run on the Equitrack surface and the wisdom of that decision is self evident.

Last time out he readily accounted for Pipicante. Previously, he was made to pull out all the stops by Westmead. If that looked disappointing at the time, it does not look so now because it transpires that he was trying to give 29lb to a horse who has won twice there since, easily both times.

Doc's Coat, who finished fourth that day, now has 15 lengths to make up on Sing The Blues and only a 10lb allowance from the handicapper with which to do so. That is unlikely to be enough even though Doc's Coat ran well at Windsor last week to be second to Dramatic Event, who went on to win again at Stratford three days later.



Benstead: fine record with Sing The Blues

While Hellenic Prince and Curious Feeling, who was second and fourth respectively in the race won by Lusty Lad a week ago, can also be expected to go well over a course and distance where they have both succeeded twice, I still prefer to go nap on Sing The Blues, on what is unquestionably his favourite hunting ground.

Today's programme can begin with Astre Radieux winning the Blackwood Novices' Hurdle in the hands of Mark Perrett.

A useful performer over fences during the spring and autumn of last year, this Stan Mellor-trained six-year-old should find life easier today compared with taking on Dusty Miller at Towcester a week ago even though he is opposed by On The Sauce, who was runner-up to Snuggle last time.

The way that Sporting Idol won a seller on today's surface a week ago suggested that he ought to be capable of even taking care of Hataam, Broughtino and Norstock in the Pellew Claiming Hurdle.

As far as the Cochrane Maiden Hurdle is concerned, the form book clearly points to Windsor Park as being the likely winner. Far from discredited when fourth in a Flat race on the same surface last Saturday, this royally named five-year-old was caught on the line by Comedy River when he last attempted to lose his maiden allowance over hurdles on this same course a fortnight ago.

On that occasion, Groomsman, who reopposes this afternoon, was nine lengths adrift in fourth place.

While always respecting anything that Steve Smith Eccles rides for Mark Tompkins, I was still not impressed by Wylam's latest effort.

In going for Estwing to win the Collingwood Handicap Hurdle, I have been swayed by the way that Sally Oliver's New Zealand-bred eight-year-old beat Queen Of Sparta at Southwell compared with the apparent ease with which Howjal won a race for amateur riders over today's course and distance last Thursday.

Trace Of Irony in auction dispute

SOUTHWELL'S Fibresand survived the ice and snow yesterday. The thermometer hovered around freezing throughout, but temperatures rose in a heated dispute after the 3-1 favourite Trace Of Irony made all to take the Design Contractors Selling Handicap Hurdle by 20 lengths from Lilac Time.

Her trainer Angela Knight had bid 4,800 guineas to retain the mare when auctioneer John Lucas said he saw a bid for 4,900 guineas. He turned to Mrs Knight, saying: "Bought in for 5,000." But she angrily retorted she had not made the bid.

Lucas could not find the previous bidder and, after words were exchanged, it was agreed to re-auction Trace Of Irony later in the afternoon. The five-year-old was eventually retained for 3,400 guineas.

"I never saw a bid at either auction and definitely did not bid 5,000 guineas myself," said Mrs Knight, who earlier had lavished praise on the Southwell executive for staging the afternoon's sport. "They have done a fantastic job," she said.

The race was marred by the death of September Snap after hitting the last flight of hurdles. Thousands of betting shop punters saw the seven-year-old collapse and then attempt to get up with a broken hind leg. He was later put down.

The Bishop Handicap Hurdle looked a duel between the treble-seeking Logamimo and Hellenic Prince, who had a sequence of seconds.

They were sent off 6-4 joint favourites, but Hellenic Prince ran out after the third in dramatic style, swerving violently and unseating John McLaughlin.

"He saw the entrance to the track and docked out," said trainer Jeff Pearce, who admitted Hellenic Prince had performed the same stunt at home.

The top weight Logamimo came home in his own time by 25 lengths, and owner-trainer John Hellens is now considering a switch to the larger obstacles as "the handicapper has got him now over hurdles."

Cosmic Dancer's 15-length victory from Carthagena Cottage in the Curate Novices' Handicap Hurdle was referred to Portman Square after the local stewards were unable to complete their enquiry.

They questioned the improved form shown by the 2-1 favourite compared to his running over the track on January 23 when a five length fourth to Mountain Retreat over 2½ miles, two furlongs further than yesterday.

Chugg plans Sandown switch for Master Rajh

MASTER Rajh, unbeaten in his last seven starts, will have one more race before his principal target, the Queen Mother Champion Chase at the Cheltenham festival.

John Chugg's fast-improving seven-year-old sustained a slight knock to one of his hind legs when gamely repelling the challenge of Star's Delight at Sandown on his latest start, and desperately needs a run before his big date in March.

Chugg intended taking his star chaser to Newbury for the Game Spirit Chase on Saturday, but the arctic weather looks certain to spoil his plan.

The Oxfordshire-based trainer said yesterday: "Newbury looks a million to one at the moment, so the Mole Handicap Chase at Sandown next Friday seems the sensible target for Master Rajh.

"He was confined to his box for a week after Sandown so he must take his chance somewhere before Cheltenham, and the only other option appears to be at Kempton on February 23."

Chugg added: "Its like Siberia here at the moment, but they say it should clear by the middle of next week so, hopefully, we will be all right."

Desert Orchid is also among 15 entries for the Queen Mother Champion Chase, but he is expected to bypass the race in favour of an assault on the Gold Cup the following day.

● The House of Lords will hold a debate on the racing industry on February 18. Lord Donoughue, a former advisor to Labour prime ministers in the 1970s, has tabled a motion calling attention "to the situation facing all involved in horse racing."

Yesterday's Southwell results

Going: standard

1.55 (2m hdle) 1, SINGING FOREVER (Miss S Bilton, 5-6 fav); 2, Land Afar (J Bryan, 6-4); 3, Le Joueur (C Hawkins; 20-1). ALSO RAN: 9 Francesco (4th), 16 Basic Thoughts (5th), 20 Royal Steel (Mrs L Stubbs), 33 Okalou. 7 ran. 5h hd, 20l, 5l, 5l, dist. T Thomson Jones at Lambourn. Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £1.30. DF: £1.80. CSF: £2.73.

2.25 (2m hdle) 1, TRACE OF IRONY (G Knight, 3-1 fav); 2, Lilac Time (Mr S Wynne, 6-1); 3, Lily Reef (D Byrne, 10-1); 4, Echo Cee (C Dennis, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Solitary Reaper (5th), 4 Occamist, 10 Parklyne's Pride (fur), Lord Pergrine (pu), Lisanna Girl, 12 Sequestrator, 16 Oxford Boy, 20 Future Glory, Sukay Tawdry, 33 Septembery Snap (f). Fast Racing (50-1), Mrs Skinner. 16 ran. 20l, hd, 5l, 4l, 25l. Mrs A Knight at Cullompton. Tote: £4.10; £1.80, £2.50, £1.40, £1.10. DF: £10.70. CSF: £24.85. Trikast: £164.97. Bought in for 3,400gns.

2.55 (2m hdle) 1, LOGAMIMO (A Orkney, 6-4 fav); 2, Pendley Gold (J Callaghan, 7-2); 3, Diamond Digger (Judy Davies, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 6-4 fav Hellenic Prince (ur), 50 Miss Patrio (4th), 5 ran. 25l, dist, 10l. J Hellens at Chester-le-Street. Tote: £2.70; £1.10, £1.80. DF: £2.30. CSF: £8.44.

3.25 (2m 4f hdle) 1, COSMIC DANCER (S Woods, 2-1 fav; Mandarin's nap); 2, Carthagena Cottage (J Cornes, 6-1); 3, Royal Steel (C Grant, 8-2). ALSO RAN: 5 Three Letters, 9 Nicholas Payne (4th), 10 Stranger Still (5th), 20 Tiger Tiger, Sussanan Blossana, Smith's Lad, 33 Tuff Stick, Noble Rise (6th), 100 Shahreyar. 12 ran. 15l, 2l, 5l, 5l, ¾l. A Hide at Newmarket. Tote: £2.30; £1.60, £2.00, £1.60. DF: £9.30. CSF: £14.94. Trikast: £46.33.

3.55 (3m hdle) 1, FIRST LORD (J Cornell, 5-1); 2, Wick Pound (C Llewellyn, 6-4); 3, Finest (T Reed, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 5-4 fav Strong Breeze (5th), 11 Pulo Pulo (4th), 16 Royal Reply (6th), 25 Castle Brae, 33 Dancin' Queen (pu). 9 ran. 22l, nk, 16l, 12l, 5l. Mrs V Aconley at Westow. Tote: £6.30; £2.30, £1.50, £4.50. DF: £8.10. CSF: £13.70.

4.25 (2m 5f hdle) 1, KING OF SHADOWS (Gary Lyons, 6-4 jt-fav); 2, Harpenny Nap (F Murtagh, 6-4 jt-fav); 3, Brilliant Wish (P Niven, 5-2). ALSO RAN: 16 Leamlara Lad (4th), 20 Carbon Lady (5th). 5 ran. 12l, 33l, dist, dist. R Hollinshead at Upper Longdon. Tote: £2.50; £2.10, £1.10. DF: £2.70. CSF: £4.42.

Placepot: £16.70.

Mother to follow in the footsteps of her son

NIGEL FARROW



A lonely slog: Crawford in training for the marathon near her Surrey home

For the comfort of others

By ALIX RAMSAY

YOU don't have to be mad to run the London Marathon, but it helps. Ann Crawford, one of the 12 fund runners backed by *The Times* and Unisys, cheerfully admits to being a lunatic for trying at all.

This is her first, and probably last, marathon. "It's a one-off, a once-in-a-lifetime thing," she said. It all started last year as a Lent penance. "I think it is negative to give something up for Lent, so I took up running instead." Her first effort was a three-minute jog down the hill near her home in Surrey, "with the wind behind me and huffing and puffing all the way". By the time Easter Sunday rolled around Crawford was up to ten minutes. At that stage it was seconds not miles that counted.

When she is not out pounding the streets, Crawford is a staff nurse on the neurological ward at the Royal Surrey Hospital in Guildford. The idea dawned on her last autumn that, with the encouragement of her son David, a veteran of three London marathons, she too could have a go at the ultimate distance and raise money for the hospital at the same time.

The neurological ward caters for severely and terminally ill patients, all of whom are bedridden and immobile. The patients must be moved and turned every two hours to prevent bed sores. However, if the ward was equipped with special padded mattresses and airbeds, the patients would not have to be moved so often. "They can be left for up to six hours without turning," Crawford said. "It saves pain and trauma for them and it is more peaceful for the severely ill patients."

With the Nimbus airbeds costing £1,000 each and the Spenco padded mattresses coming in at £100 apiece, Crawford hopes that £5,000 will be enough to equip the ward. Any extra money she raises will go towards the hospital's hydropool fund.

At the age of 46 and as a marathon novice, Crawford is not expecting miracles. She has set herself a target of five-and-a-half hours for the big event, the same length of time as her nursing shifts. "At my age you don't try to be clever, you just aim to finish" she said.

Having avoided games at school, Crawford is now finding the pursuit of fitness an interesting challenge. She has worked through the usual problems of stiff muscles and erratic breathing and has now progressed to the point where her mind and body may not be running in perfect harmony but at least they appear to be singing the same song.

● *The Times* and Unisys — the official ADT London Marathon computer service — hope that by featuring the efforts of our team of fund runners we will help them find sponsorship. If you wish to support one or more of them, write clearly stating your beneficiaries to *The Times*/Unisys London Marathon Appeal, Sports Department, *The Times*, 1, Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. We will send on your donations.

Unisys is offering a Unisys personal computer to the biggest fund raiser and a jeroboam and magnum of champagne respectively to the second and third.

THE TIMES
UNISYS
ADT London Marathon Appeal

Garrison Savannah makes early appeal

By GERALD HUBBARD, PRIVATE HANDICAPPER

IT IS hard to avoid the conclusion that the official handicapper Christopher Mordaunt has been kind to the class horses in an effort to encourage them to run in this year's National.

Desert Orchid was offered a carrot last year and it seems that Norton's Coin and Toby Tobias have been offered a similar incentive. I would dispute Mordaunt's assertion that last year's Gold Cup was sub-standard. I can think of previous Gold Cup winners who were some 10lb inferior, The Thinker being a case in point.

If he was entitled to 11st 10lb in 1989 and ran third then surely Norton's Coin should have 12 stone this year. On my figures, that cavill apart, the handicapper appears to have done a sound job of balancing Airtree and park form.

Garrison Savannah does seem at least fairly treated as does that equine character Master Bob.

Of the remainder, in order of preference, I favour last year's Gold Cup duo, Twin Oaks, Bonanza Boy (possibly had his chance), Docklands Express, Anmty Dot (stamina questionable), Golden Freeze, Seagram, Mr Frisk and Outside Edge.

At this stage, however, it would seem that Garrison Savannah (10st 11lb) has an outstanding chance following his auspicious performance when runner-up to Celtic Shot at Haydock.

● Corals report good Grand National support yesterday for Golden Freeze and Call Collect, both 20-1 (from 25-1), while Docklands Express has shortened to 25-1 from 33-1.

● Kempton is likely to cancel its £100,000 bonus scheme for the new Flat season. The bonus, paid to the connections of the first horse to win four races at the course during the season, was financed last year by an insurance scheme. But the premium has become prohibitive and bookmakers who have been approached are unable to offer competitive odds.

Catterick only hope on horizon

CATTERICK Bridge on Saturday offers the only realistic hope of turf racing this week. The course was raceable yesterday.

Today's meetings at Huntingdon and Wincanton and the first day of Newbury's Tote Gold Trophy fixture, which was due to get underway tomorrow, were called off yesterday.

Newbury's stewards were holding another inspection at 11am today to see if they can race on Saturday but prospects were reported as awful. Tomorrow's other turf meeting, Sedgefield, is also in doubt. With temperatures expected to plummet further and more snow forecast, the prospects of the turf meetings at Ayr and Uttoxeter on Saturday are not good. At Ayr, the stewards are inspecting at 10am tomorrow.

● Racing had to be cancelled at Cagnes-sur-Mer yesterday for the first time in ten years because of an unexpected snowstorm.

HOCKEY

Lloyd enjoys feast of goals

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

Cambridge University ... 8
Royal Navy ... 1

RICHARD Lloyd, who scored five goals for Cambridge University against the Royal Navy yesterday, has something in common with the England and Great Britain team manager, Bernie Cotton. Both are from Hitchin Boys School.

Lloyd's scoring potential may or may not attract Cotton's attention but the fact that Lloyd has taken his total to 20 so far this season should be a source of encouragement for Cambridge with the University match on February 26 at Reading.

Cambridge are now looking sharper than at the beginning of the season but their task yesterday seemed comparatively simple against a weak defence.

After the snow had been cleared from the artificial turf pitch at Coldhams Common, Cambridge were soon into their stride and within two minutes, Hammond opened the scoring. He was denied a goal soon after from a penalty stroke, which was well saved by Enticknap. Lloyd, coming more visibly into the picture, scored three goals in a row as Cambridge went into the interval leading 4-0.

Within three minutes of the resumption, Hammond set up a chance for Lloyd to score the fifth goal. The Navy retaliated with a goal from their first short corner, through Warrender.

But there was little the Navy could do to stop Lloyd, who scored the sixth goal for Cambridge on his own. Hammond and Doel added a goal each to complete the rout.

Towards the end, Hammond was astray with a penalty stroke. A number of saves by Enticknap prevented Cambridge from adding to their total. The Navy are due to play Oxford University at Oxford today.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: *T Castledine (Coventry and Queens', capt); *P Nisnow (King Edward VI, Birmingham and St John's; sub; P Rimmer, Watford GS and St John's), *D Grady (King Edward VI, Five Ways and Fitzwilliam), *P Doel (Perse and Trinity Hall), P Harvey (Varndean Sixth Form Coll and St Catharine's), J MacCambridge (Auckland GS and Corpus Christi), M Bailey (Kent College and Robinson), *S Eagle (Manchester GS and Clare), I Ramsaroop (Saffron Walden and Hughes Hall), *R Lloyd (Hitchin Boys School and St John's), G Brown (Sale GS and Pembroke).

ROYAL NAVY: PO S Enticknap; Lt K Bramble (capt), Lpt N Carter, CPO B Edwards, PO I Hammond, Lt P Mansell (ret), CPO B Heavy, PO S Bowles, S/LT W Warrender, LWEM T Spinks, LPT M Nesbitt.

Umpires: F/sgt B Anderson (Combined Services), S Crisp (Eastern Counties).

* A blue.

SQUASH RACKETS

Davies takes the strain in Marshall's absence

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

WITH the European tournament season about to enter its most hectic period, top-string encounters in the Pimm's Premier League this week took on a significance beyond the seemingly inevitable extension of the Carlisle Cannons' lead to nine points over Leekes Wizards and 18 over third-placed L and P Lambs.

Leekes lost a vital win bonus against Team Allsports in Cardiff when the late withdrawal of Peter Marshall, the British No. 1, committed Adrian Davies to a fierce five-set, second-string battle against South Africa's Craig van der Wath, fresh from victory in the Grantham Open.

The Scottish and Canadian elements of the Leekes squad, Mark Maclean and Jamie Hickox, relinquished the match initiative in the lower order. It took an incisive 9-2, 9-6, 9-4, performance by their Australian first string, Chris Robertson, against Colin Keith, and a dogged 9-7, 4-9, 3-9, 9-3, 9-4 win by Davies, the Welsh captain, to salvage a draw.

There were other draws, at Surbiton and Ealing, but it was the sharing of the points at Cardiff that most satisfied the Cannon squad.

The Cannon lower order was too businesslike for the trio of young Essex players who supplement the Norfolk team's effort. But the first-string rubber between the Australians, Chris Dittmar and Rodney Martin, was an hour-long affair of explosive, competitive character.

Jansher Khan, the world champion, who was playing first string for Stars and Stripes, looked to be in trouble when Rodney Eyles, of Mosaic Priory, already 2-1 up, took a 6-0 lead in the fourth game, before losing 9-6, 1-9, 2-9, 9-6, 9-1 in 75 minutes at Ealing.

RESULTS: Carlisle Cannons 4, North Walsham 0; Leekes Wizards 2, Team Allsports 2; Stars and Stripes 2, Mosaic Priory 2; Lynic Surbiton 2, GT Sports Abbeydale 2. League positions: Cannons, 59pts; Leekes, 48; Lambs, 40; Allsports, 36; Friary, 26; North Walsham, 24; Stars and Stripes, 21; Abbeydale, 17; Surbiton, 16.

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LINGFIELD PARK

Selections

By Mandarin
1.40 Astre Radieux.
2.10 Sporting Idol.
2.40 Windsor Park.
3.10 SING THE BLUES (nap).
3.40 Estwing.
4.10 Nut Tree.

By Thunderer
1.40 On The Sauce.
2.10 Broughtino.
2.40 LONDON STANDARD (nap).
3.10 Sing The Blues.
3.40 Howjal.
4.10 Mona Chic.

By Michael Seely
1.40 On The Sauce. 2.10 Norstock. 3.40 FIVE LAMPS (nap).

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.10 SPORTING IDOL.

Going: standard (precautionary inspection 9am) SIS

1.40 BLACKWOOD NOVICES HURDLE (£1,778: 2m 4f) (12 runners)

1	1-14586	ASTRE RADIEUX 7 (G,B) (T Hemmings) S Mellor 5-11-5	M Perrett	94
2	0-00004	CHEEKY FOX 39 (J Westley) J Bosley 5-11-0	M Bosley	72
3	43	DANCING OATS 36 (Mrs J St Clair-Ford) K Bailey 5-11-5	A Tory	—
4	B/4P/P2	GRUMBLE 23 (K Cunningham-Brown) K Cunningham-Brown 5-11-5	R Guest	67
5	/P/6039	HENFOLD LANE 21 (A Wates) T Etherington 5-11-5	R Martin (7)	74
6	4P2	INTERCLUB 9 (A Balderstone) E Eldin 7-11-5	J McLaughlin	88
7	0F-5U	URBAN SURFER 8 (Mrs J Grist) D Grissell 7-11-5	H Davies	86
8	20/43-60	CASSCA 14 (R Short) N Thomson 5-11-1	Dale McKeown	95
9	P/0343-0	CHAFFA 14 (H Horlor) Miss C Horlor 5-11-1	G Upton (3)	76
10	P0025	DERWENT WATERS 14 (B) (K Beaumont) T Thomson Jones 4-10-9	S Smith Eccles	93
11	82	ON THE SAUCE 7 (Goldsmith, Langham & Thompson) M Haynes 4-10-8	S Keightley	● 93
12	P0	SINGH HOUSE 132F (A Chandler) S Harris 4-10-8	S McNeill	—

SETTING: 2-1 On The Sauce, 7-2 Astre Radieux, 9-2 Derwent Waters, 6-1 Grumble, 8-1 Interclub, 10-1 Dancing Oats, 14-1 Urban Surfer, 20-1 others.
1990: BAHRAIN BRIDGE 5-11-13 M Perrett (2-7 fav) A Denson 7 ran

FORM FOCUS ASTRE RADIEUX, a useful chaser at his best, 27l 6th to Dusty Miller over hurdles at Towcester (2m, good). DANCING OATS 9l1l 3rd to above-average sand performer Carnwath in a National Hunt Flat race over 2m here; makes hurdling debut. GRUMBLE 4l 2nd to Alreef over 2m here. INTERCLUB 2½l 2nd to St Ville over 2m 6f here. URBAN SURFER claims on 18½l 5th of 22 to King Credo on penultimate start here (2m, good). DERWENT WATERS 9¾l 5th to Comedy River over 2m here with CHAFFA tailed off; earlier 10l 2nd to Abigail's Dream over same course and distance with ON THE SAUCE staying-on 15¾l 5th. ON THE SAUCE put up improved effort when 3l 2nd to Snuggle over 2m here last week. Selection: ON THE SAUCE

2.10 PELLEW CLAIMING HURDLE (£1,749: 2m 2f) (9 runners)

1	602331	SPORTING IDOL 7 (C) (J Warren) C Popham 5-11-8	S Donohoe (7)	● 88
2	43P-PP1	HATAAM 9 (B,C,D,S) (J Canney) E Wheeler 5-11-1	P Barnard (3)	86
3	11-0000	STRAW BLADE 13 (B,P) (Cosepart) G Ham 5-11-0	M Powell	80
4	66-6364	CHARDAY 14 (H Horlor) Miss C Horlor 6-10-12	G Upton (3)	72
5		FIRE LADY 3F (R Biller) J Jenkins 5-10-11	R Dunwoody	—
6		VICTORIOUS PRINCE 107F (R Lee) R Lee 4-10-11	W McFarland	—
7	2	BROUGHTINO 23 (Broughton Thermal Insulation) W Musson 4-10-7	D Murphy	91
8	591	NORSTOCK 14 (C) (Mrs M Fairbairn) J White 4-10-8	J Tutte (7)	90
9	04600	MOTCOMBE 14 (Mrs M Fearn) M McCormack 4-10-0	C Maude (3)	79

BETTING: 9-4 Broughtino, 3-1 Norstock, 4-1 Sporting Idol, 11-2 Hataam, 8-1 Fire Lady, 12-1 Straw Blade, 16-1 Victorious Prince, 20-1 others.
1990: CAROLES CLOWN 4-9-13 I Shoemark (100-30) M Haynes 9 ran

FORM FOCUS SPORTING IDOL comfortably beat Tribute To Dad 20l over 2m 4f here. HATAAM best Deciding Bid 4l over 2m here. STRAW BLADE, winner of a Devon (2m 1f, hard) seller on final start last term, drops down in class after finishing tailed off behind Deadly Charm in Wincanton (2m, good) handicap hurdle latest. CHARDAY 25½l 4th to Percy's Pet over 2m 4f here. VICTORIOUS PRINCE put up best recent effort on level when beating Casa Bella 1l at Redcar (1m 4f, good to firm). BROUGHTINO made promising debut when strong-finishing 3½l 2nd to Sparkler Dibb over course and distance. NORSTOCK beat Hellenic Prince a head over 2m here. Selection: BROUGHTINO

2.40 COCHRANE MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,145: 2m) (14 runners)

1	0402/30	DALRYMPLE 14 (Mrs R Hepburn) D Grissell 5-11-5	H Davies	86
2	4	GROOMSMAN 14 (Miss Z Davison) G Gracey 5-11-5	R Saggus	80
3	6/	LONDON STANDARD 122F (J Trickett) P Mitchell 5-11-5	R Dunwoody	—
4	00	NOTHINGBUTPLEASURE 14 (A Wates) T Etherington 5-11-5	B Powell	—
5	0-	ONLY FAIR 432 (A Goodman) J Moore 5-11-5	A Charlton	—
6	202-32	WINDSOR PARK 8F (B Bollan) R O'Sullivan 5-11-5		86
7		ANGEL BRIGHT 108F (A Gawthrop) C Weedon 5-11-1	R Guest	—
8	0-P5	COOMBESBURY LANE 48 (N McGilligan) P Jones 5-11-1	S Earle	75
9	0	GREY GYPSY 14 (Mrs R Plummer) Mrs A Hamilton-Fairley 5-11-1	M Richards	—
10	0/P-	LIZAWAY 414 (Miss S Weyman) Miss S Sanders 7-11-1	Dale McKeown	—
11	2P-4	MISS CELEBRITY 9 (J Pelly) P Butler 5-11-1	R Goldstein	86
12		WYLAM 8F (Mrs J Wooldon) M Tompkins 4-10-10	S Smith Eccles	—
13		LA RAPTOTTE 16F (Group 1 Racing (1989) Ltd) M Charles 4-10-5	S Bridgwater (7)	—
14	40	WELL AND TRULY 28 (Dufrancis-Mitchelland) C Elsey 4-10-5	A S Smith (5)	● 86

BETTING: 9-4 Windsor Park, 4-1 London Standard, 5-1 Groomsman, 8-1 Well And Truly, 8-1 Wylam, 10-1 Dalrymple, 12-1 Grey Gypsy, 16-1 Miss Celebrity, 20-1 others.
1990: SOFTLY 4-10-13 Mr S Clifford (11-2) P Hobbs 8 ran

FORM FOCUS DALRYMPLE 5½l 3rd to Alreef over 2m 2f here on penultimate start. WINDSOR PARK, caught last stride, short head 2nd to Comedy River over course and distance with GROOMSMAN staying-on 9l 4th and DALRYMPLE 6l 7th. ANGEL BRIGHT fair performer on level when good efforts included ½l 2nd in Southwell (1m, stdgrd) handicap. MISS CELEBRITY 4½l 4th to very easy winner Soupcon in hot novice event over course and distance. LA RAPTOTTE placed over 1m on the level here on final start. WELL AND TRULY sound claims here if reproducing reappearance 16½l 4th to Easy Buck at Hereford (2m, good). Selection: WINDSOR PARK

Guide to our in-line racecard

1 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ..... B West (7) 98

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F – fell. P – pulled up. U – unseated rider. B – brought down. S – slipped up. R – refused. D – disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B – blinkers. V – visor. H – hood. E – Eyeshield. C – course winner. D – distance winner. CD – course and distance winner. BF – beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F – firm, good to firm, hard. G – good. S – soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

3.10 JERVIS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,175: 2m) (5 runners)

1	12-5611	SING THE BLUES 14 (CD) (B Hager) C Benstead 7-12-0	Dale McKeown	93
2	3-60482	DOC'S COAT 8 (D,BF,F,S) (M Keeling) C Wildman 8-11-8	G Bradley	88
3	3-4222U	HELLENIC PRINCE 1 (CD) (K Moorcroft) J Pearce 5-10-10	J McLaughlin	● 88
4	0P1134	CURIOUS FEELING 7 (CD,F) (M Smith) J Bosley 5-10-8	M Bosley	87
5	0065-00	NORTHERN HALO 62 (D,F) (N Moore) G Ham 10-10-0	B Powell	—

Long handicap: Northern Halo 9-6.
BETTING: 11-10 Sing The Blues, 2-1 Doc's Coat, 4-1 Hellenic Prince, 8-1 Curious Feeling, 25-1 Northern Halo.
1990: POINT MADE 7-10-12 M Bosley (9-2) J Bosley 6 ran

FORM FOCUS SING THE BLUES, six times successful over course and distance, lad from 2 out to beat Pipicante 3½l for latest of those wins; previously driven out to beat Westmead by a neck; also over course and distance with DOC'S COAT (10lb better off today) 15l 4th. DOC'S COAT caught on flat when 8l 2nd to Dramatic Event at Windsor (2m 30yd, good); previously every chance until weakening from two out when 5th of 14 (btn 17l) to Light Dancer in valuable Kempton handicap (2m 4f, good). HELLENIC PRINCE unseated between flights at Southwell yesterday; previously finished ½l 2nd to Lusty Lad (gave 5lb) over course and distance with CURIOUS FEELING (same terms) one-paced 3½l last of 4. CURIOUS FEELING driven out to beat Lusty Lad (gave 8lb) 1l over course and distance last month. NORTHERN HALO never dangerous well beaten 10th of 11 behind Truism at Devon (2m 1f, good to firm) latest start; last successful in a handicap hurdle at Towcester two seasons ago. Selection: SING THE BLUES

3.40 COLLINGWOOD HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,764: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1	F-P6642	A LAD INSANE 23 (F) (Miss S Wills) K Bailey 10-12-0	A Tory	94
2	021	ESTWING 17 (D) (The Sporting Chance Partnership) Mrs S Oliver 5-11-10	R Hyett	94
3	68F-035	FIVE LAMPS 16 (C,S) (Mrs C Holder) R Dickin 11-11-4	M Jones (3)	● 99
4	P1-3551	HOWJAL 7 (CD,G) (M Rust) J Bostock 6-10-9 (Sex)	D Byrne	97
5	P/1E/0-5	TALUS 14 (F) (J & D Contract Cleaners Ltd) J Bosley 7-10-5	M Bosley	—
6	5/30-0F0	STAR OF KUWAIT 13 (F) (Mrs M Cox) N Thomson 7-10-7	S Smith Eccles	—
7	F62362	LONGSHURST 21 (D,C,S) (Hestia Installations Limited) G Forsey 5-10-0	N Coleman	98
8	24/0080	NAUTICAL BELLE 21 (D) (J Sainsbury) J Ringer 7-10-0	S McNeill	87
9	PP0F0	MAHONSTOWN BRIDGE 55 (D Paull) P Rodford 11-10-0	P Verling (3)	—

Long handicap: Longghurst 9-13, Nautical Belle 9-12, Mahonstown Bridge 8-12.
BETTING: 7-4 Estwing, 7-2 Howjal, 9-2 Five Lamps, 7-1 A Lad Insane, 8-1 Longghurst, 10-1 Talus, 12-1 Nautical Belle, 20-1 Star Of Kuwait, 50-1 Mahonstown Bridge.
1990: PARENTUS 7-10-1 Lesos Long (11-1) J Long 7 ran

FORM FOCUS A LAD INSANE: no impression from two out when 6l 2nd to Lesbet here over 3m, ESTWING beat Queen of Sparta 3½l in novice hurdle at Southwell (2m 4f, AW); previously 2l 2nd to Lots Of Luck in maiden at same course (2m, AW). FIVE LAMPS dropped in the handicap since weakening approaching last to finish 12l 5th to The Widget Man in decent event at Nottingham (2m, soft). HOWJAL comfortably beat Burnt Oats 8l in amateurs' race over course and distance. TALUS tailed off 5th of 6 behind Driving Force in claimer over course and distance. LONGSHURST running-on ¾l 2nd to Colonel Chinstrap in seller over course and distance with NAUTICAL BELLE (1lb better off) 3rd when fell 2 out. NAUTICAL BELLE weakened 2 out when 14l 7th to Mouraddale in seller at Catterick (2m, good to firm). STAR OF KUWAIT well beaten (not in first 12 of 23) behind Deadly Charm at Wincanton (2m, good). Selection: ESTWING

4.10 GAMBLER NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,675: 2m) (10 runners)

1	4	BALD JOKER 21 (R Bray A Mr D Farrar) J Moore 5-11-5	S Fox (7)	—
2		TERRIFORM (T Thorn) J Davies 5-11-5	Miss S Gladstone (7)	—
3	00	WAYWARD SAILOR 73 (Mrs S Newell) Mrs A King 5-11-5	M Crogan (7)	—
4	3	NUT TREE 49 (D Wise) D Wise 5-11-0	R Bellamy (5)	—
5		BROOK DANCE (B Walker) S Dow 4-10-9	A Dicken (7)	—
6	0	MONA CHIC 13 (Mrs M Ryan) M Ryan 4-10-9	P McEntee (7)	—
7		ARTISTIC PEACE (Mrs P Yeo) N Kernick 4-10-4	D Bridgwater (7)	—
8	4	LADY ELLIE 28 (P Hannaford) D Grissell 4-10-4	Mrs D Grissell	—
9	0	MISS FLIC 21 (P Deal) J Bosley 4-10-4	Mr G Cosgrove (7)	—
10		PICASSO (Miss T Pile) R Curtis 4-10-4	S Hazell (7)	—

BETTING: 2-1 Nut Tree, 5-2 Bald Joker, 7-2 Mona Chic, 8-1 Lady Ellie, 10-1 Artistic Peace, 12-1 Brook Dance, 16-1 Picasso, 20-1 others.
1990: KERRUFFLE 5-11-0 Miss A Harwood (10-11 fav) B Harwood 7 ran

FORM FOCUS BALD JOKER never dangerous 12½l 4th to Carnwath over course and distance with MISS FLIC (2lb worse off) 2½l 7th. WAYWARD SAILOR well beaten 11th of 19 behind Grange Brake at Catterick (2m, good to soft); previously distant 5th to Paperwork Boy at Huntingdon (2m 100yd, good). NUT TREE ran on at one pace to finish 10½l 3rd of 18 behind Avonburn at Ludlow (2m, good to firm). MONA CHIC never dangerous distant 8th of 17 behind Hawthorn Blaze at Doncaster (2m 150yd, good). LADY ELLIE market drifter when one-paced 21l 4th to Blakeesmere Prince here (1m 5f, AW). NO SELECTION

Course specialists

TRAINERS

	Winners	Runners	Per cent
J Benstead	7	10	70.0
M Tompkins	6	11	54.5
T Thomson Jones	5	11	45.5
Miss B Sanders	12	35	34.3
K Bailey	9	31	29.

Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, reviews the Ashes series and says there is a need for management changes

Time for Stewart to hand over the reins

Perth

No sporting mission which has drifted so accusingly off course as England's Ashes tour can be filed away with nothing more than comforting backslaps. If the "sack the lot" proponents are naive in their extremism, then so too are those who contend that the fuss will blow over and everything can cosily carry on as before. It cannot. It must not.

England were beaten by a superior side. There would be no disgrace in that, nor much in the 3-0 margin, for England had a sniff of victory in all five Tests. But the charges against the team begin here, with the fact that not one of those chances was taken, that positions of strength were feebly surrendered by a series of devastating batting collapses. When the going got tough, only one team was prepared to fight, and it was not England.

Outside the Test cricket, there was a prevailing air of sufferance in the approach of several England players, giving the impression that they would greatly prefer to have been elsewhere. It is this attitude which angered and dismayed Graham Gooch. It also, by definition, compromised his captaincy, an awareness which so depressed him that, as he admitted to me last night, it crossed his mind to give up the job.

It is one of the curiosities of this tour that the captain, customarily the easy scapegoat, is unanimously agreed to be blameless. Gooch's reputation has, if anything, been enhanced within the failure of his team and nobody with an ounce of sense would dispute that the first thing to be done now is reappoint him for the summer series against West Indies, just in case he has second thoughts about continuing.

Who, then, is to be accountable for what became a humiliating experience? The roles of three men must be closely examined: Ted Dexter, chairman of the England committee, Peter Lush, the tour manager and overseer of discipline, and Micky Stewart, the team manager. None of the three can escape a share of the responsibility, though whether one or more of them will lose their jobs over it remains problematical.

Lush is much the most likely to go, but probably at his own behest. His contract is up and it is plain that he has been wearied and bewildered by some of the behaviour on this tour. He has not handled the essential discipline uniformly well, his major failings being prevarication and the impression of weakness. I doubt if he has any desire to manage another tour; equally, I doubt if he would be asked.

The exit of an administrator, however, solves little. Dexter, too, holds only a figurehead position and insists that his duties are to English cricket as a whole. It may seem bizarre that he is paid an appreciable sum to be in charge and yet can disclaim and delegate, but unless the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) decides, at its March meeting, to alter the brief of the chairman's job or to scrap it altogether, Dexter will probably be seen as inviolate.

This leaves the team manager, the most obviously culpable party as his duty is to prepare the players physically, mentally and technically. In all this he has evidently failed and, despite the relative triumph of the West Indies tour a year ago, Stewart might now be expecting dismissal but for the fact that he is holding a contract which runs until September of next year.

Little about this tour has staggered me quite as much as Stewart's revelation, on the day of departure, that his future was secure no matter the outcome here. It was sound business on his part to negotiate an extension but crass short-sightedness on behalf of the TCCB. If, now, they are to accede to the demands of those within the Board, as well as on the periphery, for a change of team manager, it will cost the counties money and they will rightly be infuriated.

Stewart's qualities must be acknowledged. No one could work harder at the job and few would organise their time more assiduously; he is totally committed to the team and fiercely protective of them. Which leads to the down side.

Although I agree wholeheartedly with Stewart's beliefs that a four-day championship programme is scandalously overdue, it is one of several reasons for failure that he has belaboured for some years. The Stewart speeches have become predictable, often self-parodies, and one wonders if the same sense of tired familiarity has invaded the dressing-room.

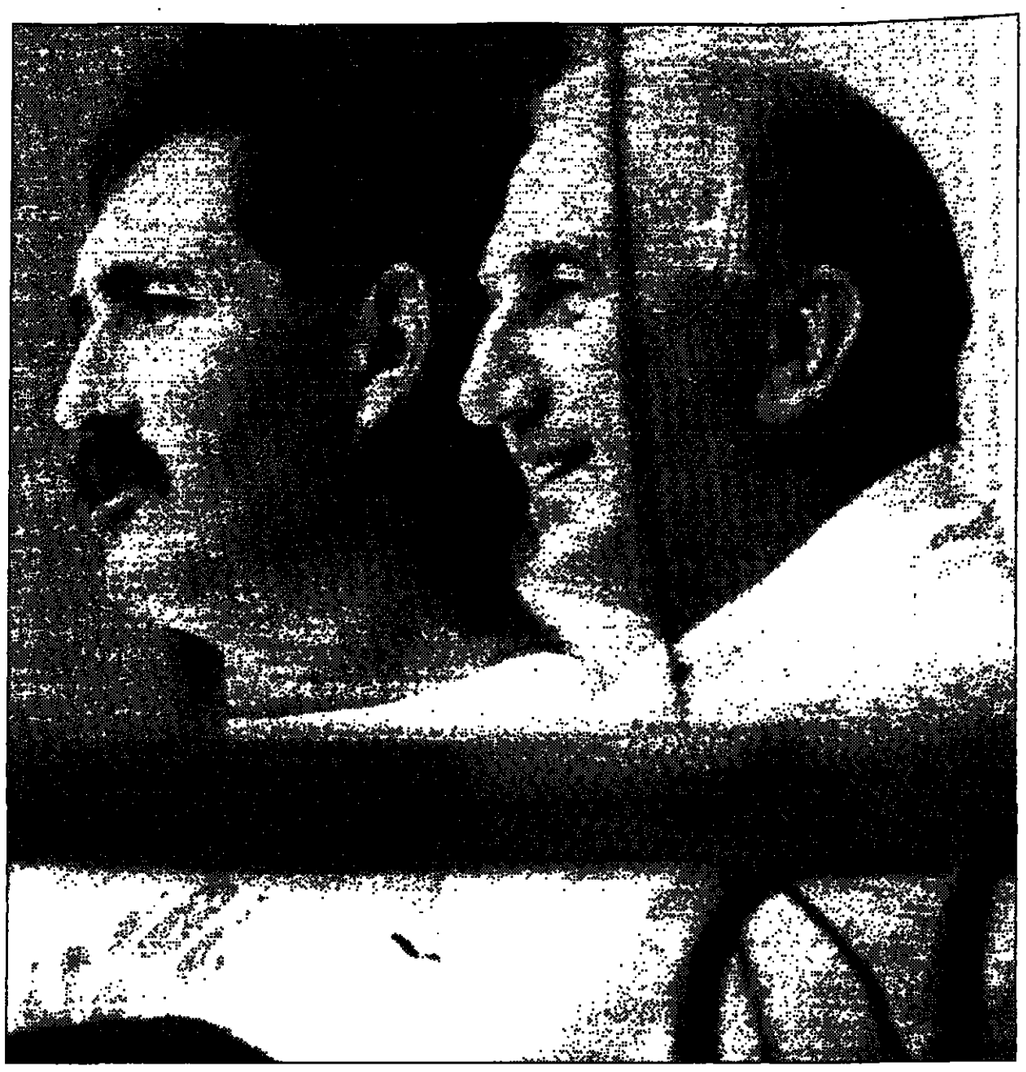
Stewart has grown too close to his players to be able to identify and condemn unacceptable behaviour. Could it be that he is also too close to them to remedy matters of attitude and technique? Could it be simply that he has done his time, and that a new face, with new ideas, would have a beneficial effect? There is no point in sacking a man if there is no ready replacement and England might have to do some serious talking to Keith Fletcher if this step is agreed.

Fletcher, with the England A team in Sri Lanka, is reluctant to take such a high-profile role as Stewart has had. Fletcher is a coach, not a spokesman, and would consider the post only on those terms. But if the management talent of Bob Bennett, with which he is happily familiar, could be installed alongside him, Fletcher might be tempted.

In proposing the end of Stewart's five years in charge, it is only fair to point out that, on this tour, he has been handicapped by an itinerary as punishing and unsuitable as any touring team can ever have had to handle.

He has been further inconvenienced by injuries to three crucial players, in Gooch, Lamb and Fraser, and by suffering a lingering infection himself. He has not had things easy. It will not be easy to remove him from a job which, despite everything, he still clearly relishes. But for the good of an England team which has begun to look stale, bored and disaffected within his regime, a change is desirable sooner rather than later.

● The Oval has taken more than £100,000 in the first week of sales, an unprecedentedly successful start, for the fifth Test between England and West Indies from August 8 to 12.



Losing partnership: Gooch is ready to go on as England captain but Stewart may be replaced as team manager

Selectors' axe now poised to fall

From ALAN LEE

THE tough decisions confronting those who run the England team, whoever they may be in three months' time, include a potentially terminal verdict on the international careers of David Gower and Allan Lamb.

Gower played the best innings of the series, and the worst. We should not be surprised by this, for he has forever been inclined to extremes, but despite scoring more than 400 runs and upholding his Test average of 45, he has not looked a man intent on prolonging his career.

He has also offended the management, and unless he has a strong desire to play against West Indies this summer, and proves it in the county arena, the temptation to say farewell and usher in Graeme Hick will be great.

Lamb's appointment as vice-captain was a misjudgment, for he has no leadership credentials, as was exposed for a second consecutive tour. Additionally, he is increasingly injury-prone, his batting has a sense of desperation about it, and he does not always set a thoughtful example to younger players.

He is approaching 37, and for all his past heroics against West Indies there could be more value in looking to the future with a player of the infinite potential of Mark Ramprakash.

Indeed, of the 19 players involved on this tour, no more than six can feel confident of being at Headingley on June 6, when the summer series begins.

In this category I include Gooch and Atherton as a now established opening pair; Smith as a resilient middle-order player who has fought his way through a crisis of confidence; Russell, who should never have been left out and must immediately be restored; and Fraser and Malcolm with the new ball.

Fraser, disappointingly, missed two Tests through injury here, just as he did in the Caribbean last year, and not the least impressive aspect of Malcolm's herculean effort in bowling more overs than anyone on either side is that he was never unfit.

Apart from the glamorous names of Gower and Lamb, a number of others are unlikely to feature on an England team-sheet again. Larkins was an indefensible selection for which Gooch must take the blame; Hemmings looks his age and can no longer be chosen for the lack of anyone else; John Morris has made little of his opportunities and had questions asked about his attitude; and Alec Stewart, despite an abundance of loyalty from above, remains unconvincing both as batsman and wicketkeeper.

Tufnell is a problem child, a talented bowler who has become a cult figure here for all the wrong reasons. It would be defeatist to discard him now, but his rebellious nature, not to mention his poor fielding, may well count against him.

Of the other selected bowlers, the erratic Small will be dismayed by his Test return of nine wickets at 47 runs each, and Bicknell will be disappointed not to have played a Test. He is young, however, and his turn will surely come. The theory that Lewis, though undoubtedly gifted, is physically fragile, has been borne out, and his resilience cannot be taken on trust again, while the return of DeFreitas revealed only a marginally more consistent cricketer than of old.

FINAL TOUR AVERAGES

Batting and fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avge	100	50	Ct/s
A J Lamb	6	14	1	757	154	58.23	3	4	10
R A Smith	10	19	6	755	108	58.07	1	7	5
G A Gooch	6	14	1	623	117	47.92	1	5	7
P J Newport	1	2	1	40	40*	40.00	–	–	–
J E Morris	4	7	0	252	132	36.00	1	–	1
D I Gower	10	18	1	578	123	33.11	2	3	3
C C Lewis	3	6	0	181	73	30.16	–	1	3
A J Stewart	9	17	0	497	95	29.23	–	4	10
M A Atherton	11	22	2	577	114	28.85	2	2	10
P A J DeFreitas	4	8	1	139	54	19.85	–	1	–
W Larkins	6	12	0	205	64	17.08	–	2	4
R C Russell	8	13	1	166	36	14.00	–	–	27/4
G C Small	9	14	3	147	37*	13.36	–	–	7
M P Bicknell	4	6	2	28	17	7.00	–	–	2
A R C Fraser	5	8	1	48	24	6.85	–	–	2
D E Malcolm	10	14	2	52	16	4.33	–	–	4
P C R Tufnell	8	10	7	13	8	4.33	–	–	6
E E Hemmings	3	5	0	19	13	3.80	–	–	2

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Avge	BB	5i	10m
E E Hemmings	164	45	391	15	26.06	4-29	–	–
P A J DeFreitas	126	25	353	11	32.09	4-56	–	–
D E Malcolm	422.4	78	1269	39	32.53	7-74	1	–
P C R Tufnell	318	71	887	26	34.11	5-61	2	–
A R C Fraser	237	51	596	17	35.05	6-82	1	–
G C Small	277	63	774	19	40.73	4-39	–	–
G A Gooch	33	8	90	2	45.00	1-23	–	–
M P Bicknell	125.4	22	409	9	45.44	3-124	–	–
M A Atherton	79.1	10	330	6	55.00	3-27	–	–
C C Lewis	93	8	342	6	57.00	3-29	–	–
P J Newport	20	0	78	1	78.00	1-56	–	–

● Compiled by Richard Lockwood
Source: TCCB/Bull

England's results in Australia 1990-1

Test matches

First Test (Nov 23-25, Brisbane): England 184 (having been 117-2; D I Gower 61) and 114 (T M Alderman 6-47); Australia 152 and 157-0 (G R Marsh 72 not out, M A Taylor 67 not out). Australia won by 10 wickets.
Second Test (Dec 26-30, Melbourne): England 352 (D I Gower 100, A J Stewart 79, W Larkins 64; B A Reid 6-97) and 150 (having been 147-4; G A Gooch 58, W Larkins 54; B A Reid 7-51); Australia 306 (A R Border 62, M A Taylor 61; A R C Fraser 6-82) and 197-2 (D C Boon 94 not out, G R Marsh 79 not out). Australia won by 9 wickets.
Third Test (Jan 4-8, Sydney): Australia 518 (G R J Matthews 126, D C Boon 97, A R Border 78, D M Jones 60) and 205 (I A Healy 89; P C R Tufnell 5-61); England 469-8 dec (D I Gower 123, M A Atherton 105, A J Stewart 91, G A Gooch 59) and 113-4 (G A Gooch 54). Match drawn.
Fourth Test (Jan 25-29, Adelaide): Australia 386 (M E Waugh 138, G R J Matthews 85) and 314-5 dec (D C Boon 121, A R Border 83 not out); England 229 (having been 180-3; G A Gooch 87, R A Smith 55; C J McDermott 5-97) and 395-5 (G A Gooch 117, M A Atherton 87, A J Lamb 53). Match drawn.
Fifth Test (Feb 1-5, Perth): England 244 (having been 191-2; A J Lamb 91, R A Smith 58; C J McDermott 8-97) and 182; Australia 307 (D C Boon 64, G R J Matthews 50 not out) and 120-1 (G R Marsh 63 not out). Australia won by 9 wickets.

First-class matches

Nov 2-5: Perth: Western Australia 269 and 329-4 dec; England 246 (A J Lamb 84) and 222-6 (R A Smith 98 not out). Match drawn.
Nov 9-12: Adelaide: South Australia 431-6 dec and 112-4; England 217 and 325 (A J Stewart 99, C C Lewis 73, D I Gower 58). South Australia won by 6 wickets.
Nov 16-18: Hobart: England 340 (A J Lamb 154, A J Stewart 95, R A Smith 71) and 192-4 dec (A J Lamb 105, R A Smith 58 not out); Australian XI 192 (D E Malcolm 7-74) and 214-8. Match drawn.
Dec 26-28: Bellarat: Victoria 441-7 dec and 215-7 dec; England 353-6 dec (A J Lamb 143, M A Atherton 73, R A Smith 71 not out) and 204-7 (R A Smith 56 not out, D I Gower 54). Match drawn.
Jan 13-16: Albury: England 184 (P A J DeFreitas 104) and 235 (M A Atherton 114); New South Wales 321 and 79-4. New South Wales won by 6 wickets.
Jan 19-22: Cairns: Queensland 286 (P C R Tufnell 5-109) and 175; England 430 (J E Morris 132, R A Smith 108, G A Gooch 93, A J Lamb 55) and 32-0. England won by 10 wickets.

World Series Cup

Dec 1: Adelaide: New Zealand 199-9; England 192-9 (J E Morris 83 not out). New Zealand won by 7 runs.
Dec 7: Perth: New Zealand 158; England 161-6. England won by 4 wickets.
Dec 9: Perth: England 192-6; Australia 189-4. Australia won by 6 wickets.
Dec 13: Sydney: England 194 (A J Lamb 72); New Zealand 161. England won by 33 runs.
Dec 15: Brisbane: England 203-6; New Zealand 204-2. New Zealand won by 8 wickets.
Dec 16: Brisbane: Australia 283-5; England 248-7. Australia won by 37 runs.
Jan 1: Sydney: Australia 221-7; England 153. Australia won by 68 runs.
Jan 10: Melbourne: Australia 222-8; England 219-9 (A J Stewart 55). Australia won by 3 runs.

Other matches

Oct 25: Perth: WACA President's XI 205-7; England 206-4 (A J Stewart 70 not out, J E Morris 68 not out). England won by 6 wickets.
Oct 27-28: Geraldton: England 197-8 dec (W Larkins 55) and 121-4; Western Australia Country XI 181. Match drawn.
Oct 30: Perth: England 180 (A J Lamb 50); Western Australia Invitation XI 181-7. Western Australia Invitation XI won by 3 wickets.
Nov 7: Port Pirie: England 239-7 dec (W Larkins 110); South Australia Country XI 128. England won by 111 runs.
Nov 14: Hobart: Tasmania 173-8; England 175-2 (M A Atherton 86 not out). England won by 8 wickets.
Nov 26: Adelaide: Cricket Academy XI 95; England 98-5. England won by 5 wickets.
Nov 30: Adelaide: England 237-8 (J E Morris 83); Cricket Academy XI 87. England won by 150 runs.
Dec 4: Canberra: Prime Minister's XI 226-8; England 195-9. Prime Minister's XI won by 31 runs.
Dec 11: Bowral: England 229-7 (A J Lamb 65, A J Stewart 53, H Morris 50); Bradman's XI 231-3. Bradman's XI won by 7 wickets.

Table of results

	P	W	L	D
Test matches	5	0	3	2
Other first-class	6	1	2	3
World Series Cup	8	2	6	0
Other matches	9	5	3	1
Total	28	8	14	6

● Compiled by Richard Lockwood

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/P	Runs to resort	Weather + temp (5pm)	°C	Last snow fall
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	65	100	good	varied	good	sun	-5	5/2
Excellent skiing after more fresh snow								
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	10	65	good	powder	icy	fair	-9	6/2
Overnight snowfall has greatly improved piste skiing								
Obergurgl	60	100	good	powder	good	fair	-10	5/2
Good skiing on and off piste, very cold								
St Anton	30	140	fair	varied	fair	cloud	-7	4/2
Pistes still fairly hard								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	85	270	fair	varied	fair	fine	-17	13/1
Very cold temperatures maintaining snow								
Isola	80	110	good	varied	good	snow	-4	6/2
Good skiing on new snow								
Megève	30	117	good	varied	icy	snow	-8	6/2
Excellent skiing especially at Cots 2000								
Tignes	111	195	fair	powder	fair	fine	-16	6/2
New snow has improved all pistes								
Val d'Isere	90	120	good	varied	fair	cloud	-14	5/2
ITALY								
Cervinia	100	250	good	varied	good	cloud	-11	6/2
Excellent skiing conditions								
SWITZERLAND								
Grindelwald	30	60	good	powder	good	snow	-10	5/2
Excellent skiing on and off piste, fresh snow								
Klosters	30	110	good	varied	fair	fair	-10	5/2
Light snow has freshened pistes								
Saas Fee	90	253	good	powder	good	fine	-10	6/2
New snow giving excellent conditions								
Verbier	15	175	fair	moguls	fair	snow	-6	6/2
New snow very welcome but exceptionally cold								
Wengen	28	60	good	varied	good	snow	-6	6/2
Superb skiing everywhere on new snow								
Zermatt	105	115	good	varied	poor	fine	-2	5/2
Good skiing, but extremely cold								

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper, and art to artificial.

SCOTLAND

Cairngorm: snow level, 2,000ft; vertical runs, 1,500ft. Runs: upper, middle and lower complete, hard base, bare patches. Access roads open; two chairlifts and four tows open. Glenshee: snow level, 1,500ft; vertical runs, 1,500ft. Runs: upper and lower, complete, new snow on hard base. Access roads open, some snow. Chairlifts closed, but fifteen tows open. Lecht: snow level, 2,000ft; vertical runs, 700ft. Runs: main, most complete, hard packed; ample beginner. Access roads open; most tows open. Aonach Mor: snow level, 2,000ft; vertical runs, 2,000ft. Runs: upper and lower, complete, with icy patches. Access roads open: Gondola and most tows open. Glencoe: snow level, 1,500ft; vertical runs, 2,300ft. Runs: upper and lower, complete, new snow with hard, icy patches. Access roads open.

Forecast: Remaining cold today, with temperatures staying below freezing at most levels. Cloudy with some snow showers, isolated at first, but becoming more frequent later in the day. Winds will be southeasterly strong to gale force over all mountains. Outlook: Freezing weather will continue with snow showers from the southeast becoming more frequent. East to southeasterly winds remaining strong.

● Information supplied by the Scottish Meteorological Office.

Matches played 2nd February 1991
LITTLEWOODS POOLS, LIVERPOOL
THIS WEEK'S SUPER PAYOUT £3·3 MILLION
CROSBY WOMAN £128,385 | TAMWORTH MAN £128,385 | DUDLEY WOMAN £126,808
TREBLE CHANCE – Max. 21 Pts – NO CLIENT WITH 21 Pts.
TOP DIV. FOR ONLY 20½ Pts.
20½ PTS ..... £40,817.55 | 4 DRAWS £303.50
20 PTS ..... £623.70 | 10 HOMES £6.20
19½ PTS ..... £107.10 | 5 AWAYS £107.65
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18½ PTS £9.15
18 PTS £3.00
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Expenses and Commission 19th January 1991 – 28.8%
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GOLF

Grady's drive burns fiercely

From MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, PORT DOUGLAS, QUEENSLAND

WAYNE Grady, the 1990 US PGA champion, is determined to demonstrate in the Mirage Skins tournament, which begins here on Saturday, that he can become the dominant Australian golfer.

Grady has, like Greg Norman, the 1986 Open winner, won one major championship but he is dwarfed by his compatriots in terms of tournament victories. "Greg has won more than 50 titles more than I have. And he is very exciting and charismatic. Yet I feel I can in the next ten years prove a lot," Grady said.

"Ten years ago there were plenty of people who reckoned I couldn't play the game. I can't tell you how much that hurt. I was determined to prove them wrong and I believe that I have. But I still hope that winning the US PGA Championship in Alabama was only the start.

"I must admit that since that win I've celebrated. I've enjoyed my life and why not. But I realise I've had my finger on the self-destruct button and that it is time to concentrate again. There is so much I want to achieve.

"I alone know what goals I'm prepared to set myself. But I certainly have no intention of taking things easy in 1991. I'm not going to rest on my laurels. My aim this year is to win another major championship."

Grady is 28th in the Sony world rankings so he has some way to go to challenge Norman, who will, if he retains the Australian Masters title next week, return to No. 1 above Nick Faldo. Grady will oppose Norman again at Huntingdale, Melbourne, as will Rodger Davis and Ian Baker-Finch, who complete the field here.

"I'm looking forward to both this week and next but after that it will be time to get back on the US Tour to prepare for the US Masters," Grady said. "I might have won the last major championship to have been played, but as far as that is concerned the honeymoon is now over."

Grady has made an impressive start to the year. He was runner-up in the recent Vines Classic to the American, Blaine McCallister. It promises to be a hectic year for him as he will also compete in the Dutch Open and the European Open, at Walton Heath in September, as well as the Open Championship. But he has decided against playing in the Volvo PGA Championship at Wentworth.

"We have a boating holiday planned for that week which, as far as the family is concerned, comes first," he said.

Meanwhile, Norman will arrive here on the eve of the tournament as he is filming commercials for the Australian Tourism Commission.

SKIING

Downhill title for Crawford and the Army

MEGÈVE, France – The British Services international Alpine championships continued yesterday with the men's downhill event here (Ian Sweet writes). Overnight snow slowed the piste but did not prevent Daniel Bantin, of the French Air Force, from taking the open award in a time of 1min 35.35sec, more than two seconds faster than any other competitor.

Geordie Crawford, from the British Army, maintained his form to win his first inter-services downhill title in 1min 39.27sec, just 0.22sec in front of the defending champion, Hugh Hutchison, also Army.

The French Air Force claimed the open team prize in the downhill.

RESULTS: Men: Open downhill: 1, D Bantin (Fr), 1min 35.35secs; 2, I Espin (Sp), 1:37.66; 3, F Rodriguez (Fr), 1:37.90. Inter-services downhill: 1, G Crawford (Army), 1:39.27; 2, H Hutchison (Army), 1:39.49; 3, C Bonnington (RAF), 1:40.34.

YACHTING

Augin suffers setback in light air conditions

CHRISTOPHE Auguin, the second placed French skipper in the BOC single-handed round the world race, reported yesterday that he had hit a whale while chasing Alain Gautier for the lead. Auguin's 60ft yacht, Groupe Sceta, was undamaged, but in the light airs of the Tasman Sea yesterday slipped a further 30 miles behind the leader (Barry Pickthall writes).

Gaining most from the conditions, which left much of the fleet becalmed, was John Martin, of South Africa, who moved ahead of Philippe Jeantot and Isabella Autissier to take third place, 49 miles behind Gautier.

Yesterday's Argos satellite plot showed Martin to have caught up to within 15 miles of Groupe Sceta, which was averaging 1.4 knots compared to the 4.2 knots set by Allied Bank. Another to benefit from a private wind was Paul Thackaberry's leading Corinthian class yacht, Volcano, which was setting a speed of 9.1 knots.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 13.00 GMT yesterday, with miles to Punta del Este, Uruguay): Class 1: 1, Generali Concorde (A Gautier, Fr), 5,799 miles; 2, Groupe Sceta (C Auguin, Fr), 5,833; 3, Allied Bank (J Martin, SA), 5845; 4, Crédit Agricole (P Jeantot, Fr), 5,861; 5, Ecureuil PC (I Autissier, Fr), 5,890; equal 6, Jarkan (K Birtles, Aus), 5,901; 7, Grinaker (B Reed, SA), 5,928; 8, Alba Regia (N Fa, Hun), 9, Duracell (M Plant, US), 5,941; 10, BBV Expo '92 (J Ugarte, Sp), 5,950; 11, Innkeeper (D Adams, Aus), 5,950. Class 2: 1, Servant (Y Dupasquier, Fr), 5,836; 2, Project City Kids (J Boye, US), 5,959; 3, Buttercup (D McIntyre, Aus), 5,986; 4, New Spirit of Ipswich (J Hall, GB), 5,988. Corinthian class: 1, Volcano (P Thackaberry, US), 6,053; 2, Shutandorji (M Saito, Japan), 6,071; 3, Global Exposura (R Davie, GB), 6,134.

● Stewart Morris, Britain's most successful post-war dinghy racer, who won a gold medal in the Swallow class at the 1948 Olympic Games and won the premier Prince of Wales trophy a record 12 times, died on Monday.

Target proves far too stiff for Sri Lanka

DUNEDIN (Reuter) – New Zealand beat Sri Lanka by 107 runs in a one-day international here yesterday to take the series 3-0. After being put in, New Zealand reached 272 for six in their 50 overs, their highest score of the series.

However, their opening bowler, Danny Morrison, who twisted an ankle, will miss the three-match, one-day series against England, which starts in Christchurch on Saturday.

Although Crowe (31), Reid (53), Jones (35) and Greatbatch (26) all made useful contributions for New Zealand, it was Rutherford who played the most important innings. His 65 came off 78 balls in 92 minutes to earn him the man-of-the-match award. At the end, Smith hit 42 not out off 21 balls, including five fours and a six.

The Sri Lankan reply began at a cracking pace but they lost wickets too regularly to have any hope of winning. Only Ranatunga, the captain, who was run out for 50, made a significant score.

NEW ZEALAND

R B Reid c Wijegunawardene b Ranatunga	53
*M D Crowe lbw b Wijegunawardene	31
A H Jones c Ramayake b Ranatunga	35
K R Rutherford b Ramanayake	65
M J Greatbatch c Senanayake b Gurusinha	26
†I D S Smith not out	42
C Z Harris c Gurusinha b Ramanayake	5
C Pringle not out	1
Extras (lb 10, w 4)	14
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs)	272

G R Larsen, D K Morrison and W Watson did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-79, 2-110, 3-183, 4-203, 5-243, 6-260.

BOWLING: Ramayake 10-0-52-0 (w1); Ramanayake 9-0-60-2 (w2); Wijegunawardene 5-0-33-1 (w1); E A R de Silva 10-0-44-0; Ranatunga 10-0-39-2; Gurusinha 6-0-34-1.

SRI LANKA

C Senanayake c Crowe b Watson	12
R Kaluwitharana c Reid b Pringle	14
A P Gurusinha b Watson	15
P A de Silva c Rutherford b Watson	21
*A Ranatunga run out	50
†H P Tillekaratna c Crowe b Harris	9
S Jayasuriya c Smith b Larsen	1
E A R de Silva c sub b Crowe	16
R J Ramayake c sub b Reid	16
H C P Ramanayake b Rutherford	0
K Wijegunawardene not out	0
Extras (lb 1, w 7, nb 1)	9
Total (33.1 overs)	165

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-41, 3-43, 4-74, 5-102, 6-105, 7- 139, 8-151, 9-151.

BOWLING: Pringle 5-0-29-1 (nb); Watson 7-0-39-3; Larsen 10-0-38-1 (w1); Harris 5-0-30-1 (w2, nb1); Crowe 3-0-12-1; Rutherford 2-0-5-1; Reid 1.1-0-13-1.

CRICKET

Weaving a trap to put England in a spin

From RICHARD STREETON IN KANDY, SRI LANKA

BRENDON Kuruppu, who made the slowest double-hundred in Test history on his first appearance, has been appointed captain of Sri Lanka A for the three-match unofficial Test series against England A, which starts here tomorrow. Three of the four spin bowlers, who humbled England A in the second one-day international at Kurunegala on Monday, are included in a 14-strong party announced yesterday.

Kuruppu, aged 29, will continue to play under Mahinda Halangoda in the remaining three one-day internationals. The announcements represent a realistic approach by the Sri Lankan selectors. Halangoda is an experienced leader, particularly in the limited-overs game, but could be regarded as falling short of being a Test candidate.

After scoring 201 not out in 776 minutes against New Zealand in 1986-7, Kuruppu has never developed as was hoped and has won only four full caps. In recent months his cricket has been disrupted by injuries and illness.

In the past, though, Kuruppu led several Sri Lankan youth teams and as the senior man appearing against England on this tour, his choice as captain was not a surprise. It brings a further twist to the career of a player who by local standards matured late. Kuruppu appeared in 21 one-day internationals before his remarkable Test debut when he was 25.

Nine of the party for the unofficial Tests played against England in the first two one-day internationals. They include the spin bowlers Arunasiri (left arm), Rajadurai (leg breaks) and Jurangpathy, the off-spinner, who took five for 20 on Monday, though chosen as a batsman. Kalpage, the other off-spinner England struggled against, was unavailable for the first Test. Sri Lanka have also picked Premasiri, another left-arm slow bowler, as well as a full complement of seam bowlers. They are clearly prepared to probe England's suspected weakness against spin should the conditions be right.

Gamini Wickramasinghe, a highly regarded batsman-wicketkeeper, is also in the 14. He is unrelated to the other two Wickramasinghes in the team. Should he be included, de Silva would play as a batsman while Kuruppu, of course, can also keep wicket. The versatility of Sri Lankan cricketers seems endless; the one-day matches have already shown that everybody seems able to bat or bowl with equal facility.

SRI LANKA (from): D S B P Kuruppu (captain), D Bulankulame, D Wickramasinghe, H Premasiri, B R Jurangpathy, A de Silva, G Wickramasinghe, B E A Rajadural, S D Anurasiri, C Edirimanne, S Ahangama, P Wickramasinghe, U Karnain, S Gunaratne.

Howell anchors reply

LLORNE Howell, the New Zealand captain, made a sedate, unbeaten 97 to help his side build a lead of 130 over England in the under-19 Test at Napier yesterday.

New Zealand ended the second day at 274 for four but it took them 120 overs against some resolute England bowling.

England's seam attack, Philip Weston, Mark Broadhurst, Glen Chapple and Ben Smith did not allow New Zealand to cut loose when they resumed at 29 without loss.

The opener, Matthew Hart, had retired hurt because of an ankle injury and Dion Nash and Selwyn Blackmore took the total to 42 before Broadhurst had Nash caught behind for three.

Adian Shaw, the wicketkeeper, had a hand in the next two dismissals, catching Blackmore off Chapple for 37 and making a smart leg-side stumping to dismiss Stephen Fleming, for 47, off Smith. Two runs later, Smith had Nathan Astoe taken at slip to make New Zealand 173 for four. But Howell and Gary Stead put on 101 to put the home team in a strong position.

SCORES: England under-19 144; New Zealand under-19 274-4 (L Howell 97 not out).

هكذا من الأصل

Leonard works with fervour of an addict

New York

WALK along Seventh Avenue: here, all the good clichés of New York are true: the legendary energy, the incredible style, etc, etc. If you seek the other clichés, all you need to do is walk westward for a single block. Here, you can find all the threatening, sordid ghastliness that make up the second legend of New York.

The contrast is incomprehensible to people accustomed to less sudden cities. "Seventh and Eighth," a street cop once said to me. "Night and day."

Kingsway boxing gym is on the corner of Eighth and Fortieth. There are glass walls along two sides: outside a sudden squall of snow took a grip on the place. Inside, it was all the clatter of the speedball, the narcissism of a lone shadow-boxer, the crump of the heavy bag, the tenderness of the handlers annointing their charges, the delicate toe-pointing of the man with the skipping-rope, a ritual which, in the face of considerable competition, is the most incongruous in boxing.

[redacted]

Inside the gym, New York boxing writers exchanged witticisms: "He's so old, the first fight he covered was David and Goliath." "I remember, I picked Goliath."

Outside, in the brief blizzard, a handful of people gathered on the corner across the street. All were black; one had a bottle in a brown bag. A boxer stepped into the ring, light-footed as a cat. Even seen through a snowstorm, across a street and wearing a helmet, the man was unmistakable: a ragged cheer broke out.

Sugar Ray Leonard raised both gloves in brief acknowledgment, and was down to business: hands flickering like the tongue of a cobra. Seven minutes later, the sparring partner was assisted from the ring, and Sugar Ray was looking more cat-like than ever: this time, one that had been at the cream.

He's at it again. He fights Terry Norris on Saturday night, just a few blocks down the road from the Kingsway gym, at Madison Square Garden. He is 35 in May: he is rich, handsome and intelligent.

He knows what boxing can do to you: in 1982 he retired (for the first of many times) with a detached retina. He knows that boxing can destroy your looks, destroy your health, destroy your life. The effects of repeated blows to the head are subtle and cumulative: besides, this is the country of Muhammad Ali. No one can be in any doubt about what boxing can do to a man.

Boxing accords a traditional respect for the boxer who "outsmarted the game" — who quits with brain and fortune intact. But Leonard, a man you would back to out-smart anyone, is going back into the ring once again. Leonard, as elegant as Seventh Avenue, is back on Eighth. Why?

"It's my job. I can't understand what's so hard about me doing this. You ask me why I still do it — I ask, 'Why even *ask* me why?'

"It's the American Dream — I guess it's the universal dream — that you get a million dollars in the bank, and after that all you do is sit around on some island drinking pina coladas. That's not my perception of life. I'm still working! I ain't been laid off yet."

But why not get out? Why not out-smart the game? "I try to answer that without sounding arrogant. I try to say that this is what *I do*. This is my *life*. I'm a *fighter*."

In one sense, Leonard has outsmarted the game to a greater extent than any fighter that ever lived. He has managed to manipulate individuals and organisations: he has always fought the people who would attract the greatest publicity at the weight and the time most convenient to himself. He has won world titles at five weights. He has amassed a second fortune by fighting five times — no more — since his first retirement in 1983.

He is eager to stress this, eager to point out that he is a man of the world. "I do other things. People think I'm in the gym every day, pushing my body to the limits. I'm not. I take a break every now and then — but people should accept me *as a fighter*. That's what I do. That's what I've been doing since I was 14 years old."

The contradictions hung in the air like tobacco smoke. The passionate assertion of identity as a fighting man does not quite fit in with the picture of Sugar Ray as we usually see him: a smiling man of the world, looking wonderful with his tuxedo and sculpted face, sitting at the ringside making wise remarks about fights and fighting men.

There is a lot of pride, not to say vanity, about the man: but there are plenty of ways for the vain and famous to find gratification. You don't have to go back into that dreadful roped-off square to stay famous: you ask Frank Bruno. You don't have to risk failure.

But Leonard craves this risk. "You say, 'Are you prepared for the day when it is all over' — I say, 'No! No one is!' Nothing will ever give me the same satisfaction as what I do here. I don't care if I do the greatest movie and win an Oscar. It wouldn't be the same satisfaction, it would be foolish to say that it could."

Leonard speaks with the fervour of an addict, but what is he addicted to? That is harder to say. To glory? To the roar of the crowd? To fear? To those long days of anticipation, and their sudden, explosive release? To his own sweet skill? To conquest, to vanquished opposition? To his own vanishing youth?

Who is to say? "I work, I take much pride, I've been training my butt off. I don't expect to get by on my aura alone. It is a wonderful feeling being admired and everyone concerned. Satisfaction, I'll get satisfaction when my son graduates from college. But for me, nothing compares to this, all this." He made a brief gesture with his head that took in the Kingsway gym, Eighth Avenue, Madison Square Garden.

And what if your son wanted to become a professional boxer?

"I'd lock him up."

ATHLETICS

Nebiolo plays a power game

By David Miller

THE symposium on "Sport and Law" hosted by the International Athletic Foundation in Monte Carlo last week was one demonstration of the money now pouring into the coffers of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF). Money talks. Much of the conversation in Monaco was about the possibility of a biennial, instead of quadrennial, world championship.

Part of the motivation is power: the wish for the IAAF to exercise its influence as the most important, and second most financially successful, of the Olympic summer sports after football. Behind the power-broking is Primo Nebiolo, who has hugely raised the profile of international athletics over the past ten years of his presidency.

The development of the first world championships came in 1983; then the grand prix; the world indoor championships; the world junior championships; the biennial Marathon World Cup, incorporated in the London Marathon this year; the cross-country grand prix; and, from next year, a world half-marathon championship and world road relay.

The World Cup, inaugurated in 1977 in Düsseldorf, has always been of questionable merit — contested between unequal and contrived national and continental teams.

It was good for the projection of Africa, Asia and the Americas but Nebiolo began to realise that a second world championship would make even more money, even if the existing world championship and the Olympic Games athletic events — until 1983 regarded as the IAAF's world championship — would be marginally devalued.

Whether the athletes, already over-strained and over-raced in the chase for their rewards, can stand the pace is another matter.

The next World Cup, following Barcelona in 1989, is scheduled to be in Havana in 1993. But a recent inspection of Cuban preparations for this year's Pan-American Games has indicated that all is far from well; that the Cubans, with their economy in deep depression following the collapse of the Communist empire, possibly cannot be ready in time for the world championship.

It is, therefore, likely that at the IAAF's council meeting in Tokyo on May 26, decision will be taken to utilise 1993 as an excuse for the establishment of a second biennial championship.

There are at present two candidates to host the championships of 1995: Gothenberg, which wants it for the centenary of Swedish athletics, and Stuttgart, which hosted the European championships of 1986. Inside information suggests that both will be chosen, with Stuttgart staging a championships in place of the World Cup in Cuba.

There is another power-seeking move afoot behind the scenes. Next month, the executive board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will consider, among other items, the request by the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations — first tabled last year at the time of the election of Atlanta to host the Olympics of 1996 — for international federation presidents to be *ex officio* members of the IOC.

The main excuse for this request, primed by Nebiolo, is that the federations should have a vote in the election of host cities. Resistance to the idea centres on a belief that this is Nebiolo's oblique way of achieving a place on the IOC.

I understand that the IOC are likely to make a compromise proposal: that the summer Games and winter Games amalgamated federations should each nominate a limited number of representatives, perhaps half a dozen, to take part in the election. It would be a condition that the number include those federation presidents who are already members of the IOC, such as the Princess Royal in equestrianism.

In order to achieve a democratic balance within the Olympic movement, the IOC would also recommend the *ex officio* membership of a representative group of presidents of national Olympic committees, with the same condition regarding those who are already members of the IOC.

An implied potential threat in the background is that, if the IOC did not collaborate, the IAAF might consider making its participation in the Olympic Games an under-23 competition similar to football — an existing bone of contention for the IOC. Yet it is improbable that the necessary majority of IAAF member countries would approve such a proposal with its pointless devaluation of the historic Olympic programme.

Arsenal midfield player steals the limelight as colleagues freeze on the international football stage

Impressive Davis quick to make an impact on return

By Louise Taylor

PAUL Davis will probably be the only England B player to savour fond memories of a freezing night in Swansea on Tuesday. His free kick, curled immaculately around the Welsh wall with his left foot, provided his countrymen with a less-than-deserved 1-0 win in an undistinguished match.

It marked the end of a two-and-a-half year international exile for Davis, precipitated by the ill-advised punch which broke the jaw of Glenn Cockerill, of Southampton, and a series of injuries.

Aged 29, Davis is not quite the force he was three years ago but, even if you ignore his goal, the Arsenal midfield player was possibly the only man on view to have given Graham Taylor, the watching England manager, cause for satisfaction and perhaps serious consideration for the senior team.

Lawrie McMenemy, Taylor's assistant, said: "Paul has nothing else to prove. We all know he is a class player, and he has shown it again. B matches are not thank-yous to long-serving professionals. Paul was not selected to make up the numbers."

Davis has suffered too many setbacks to take anything for granted, though. "It was marvellous to be named in the squad and then the team," he said, "but I have lost two prime years of my career and I am assuming nothing. But I never thought that the England door was completely closed to me. You never lose that hope."

With Terry Yorath, the Wales manager, at home nursing a stomach complaint, Peter Shreeve, the Watford assistant manager, took charge of the side, and he had no hesitation in describing Davis as "a quality player".

Others in the England B side on Tuesday did little to enhance their reputations. Apart from earning the free kick from which Davis scored, Steve Bull hardly repaid the faith of his travelling supporters who had made the trek from the Black Country.

Similarly, Dale Gordon and Mark Walters, deployed on the right and left flanks respectively, were wingers who failed to take off, with Nathan Blake, of Cardiff City, performing a particularly effective first-half marking job on Walters.

Peter Beardsley chased and chivvied, but nevertheless looked like a player who had run himself out of genuine inspiration, and, like Bull, never got to grips with a Welsh sweeper system well marshalled by Andy Melville, of Oxford United.

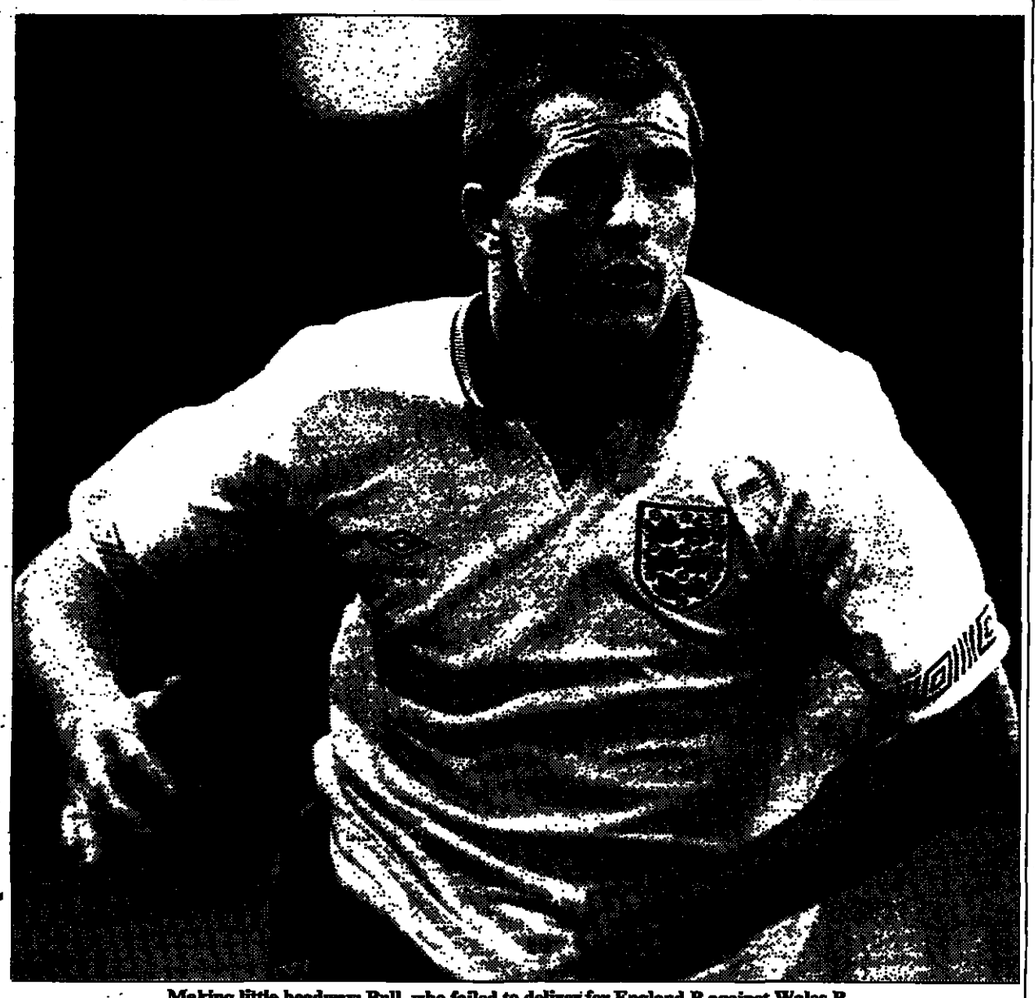
England, with Davis and Michael Thomas recapturing their Arsenal rhythm, did project a more positive, less shapeless, image after Davis's 42nd-minute goal. McMenemy said: "We improved as a unit in the second half. We were more imaginative. At the start we were too tentative and too afraid of making mistakes."

By contrast, a comparatively inexperienced Welsh team displayed no inhibitions about committing errors, and only sound defending from Earl Barrett, of Oldham Athletic, and David Burrows, of Liverpool, coupled with some athletic goalkeeping from Nigel Spink, repelled commendable efforts from Allen, Pembridge, Rees and McCarthy.

Shreeve said: "We played without fear and gave them some problems. Our sweeper system worked well, and Melville was outstanding. Unfortunately, we did not create enough chances, and much of that was due to Barrett's performance in the England defence."

Kenny Dalglish, the watching Liverpool manager, will have noted the elegant Oldham player's composure under pressure. As far as the senior side goes, however, Barrett faces stiff competition from Mark Wright, Des Walker and Gary Pallister.

At the opposite end, Tony Norman, the Sunderland goalkeeper, spent most of the first half so under-employed that he must have feared turning into an icicle. It was so cold that two of the RAF band which provided pre-match entertainment had to be treated for hypothermia, and the players can partly be excused for struggling.



Making little headway: Bull, who failed to deliver for England B against Wales B

Bolton extend their unbeaten sequence to 18

BOLTON Wanderers extended their unbeaten run in the League to 18 games after getting the better of Brentford in the third division promotion match at home on Tuesday night thanks to the own goal scored by Terry Evans, the visiting defender, (Louise Taylor writes).

Bolton are now third in the table, three places ahead of Brentford.

Grimsby Town are doing even better, and stayed second after the 1-0 win at home to Shrewsbury Town, Watson scoring the decisive goal.

Southend United remain top, the prolific Brett Angell scoring the only goal to defeat Stoke City at Roots Hall. Leyton Orient moved a place above Brentford with a goalless draw at lowly Rotherham United, and Bury revived their prospects by winning 1-0 at Mansfield.

Bingham's happy problem

By Ian Ross

NORTHERN Ireland's impressive 3-1 victory over Poland in Tuesday's international in Belfast presented Billy Bingham, the team manager, with a welcome problem.

Because of the withdrawal from his initial squad of five experienced players, Bingham was forced to select a makeshift side with the accent on promise rather than experience.

Bingham must now decide to what extent he is prepared to disrupt a winning formula, one which had its roots in necessity rather than design, as he begins to ponder his line-up for the group four European championship qualifying game against Yugoslavia on March 27.

"I had hoped to make the Poland game a practice for the fixture in Yugoslavia but I was forced into experimentation," he said. "I have said all along that, as a manager, I want to be faced by selection problems but that has not always been possible because we have such a small squad. I now have just such a problem and I am delighted."

After falling behind to an early goal scored by Warzycha, Northern Ireland drew level shortly before half time when Taggart, the Barnsley defender, headed in a free kick.

Poland's rhythm was disrupted by the introduction of four substitutes after the interval and the Irish duly prospered.

Magilton, the Oxford United midfield player, marked his first senior international match with a confident penalty in the 51st minute after Morrow had been fouled, and Taggart ensured a comfortable if rare victory in the 82nd minute with an opportunist goal after Dennison's corner had only been partially cleared.

"We had five players aged 21 in the team on Tuesday so I think it augurs quite well for the future," Bingham said. "We are making steady progress and improving all the time. And the youngsters who came in did themselves no harm at all."

Although Bingham was expected to step down as manager when his contract expires in June of next year, he has privately intimated a desire to remain in charge for the qualifying programme for the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

Bingham still enjoys a healthy level of support among the members of the Irish FA and if he decides to seek an extension he will point, with some justification, to Tuesday's performance as vindication of his oft criticised policy of giving youth its head.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Northern Ireland 3, Poland 1.

B INTERNATIONAL: Wales 0, England 1.

BARCLAYS LEAGUE: Third division: Birmingham 0, Wigan 0; Bolton 1, Brentford 0; Bournemouth 2, Exeter 1; Fulham 1, Preston 0; Grimsby 1, Shrewsbury 0; Mansfield 0, Bury 1; Rotherham 0, Leyton Orient 0; Southend 1, Stoke 0. Postponed: Chester City v Cambridge United; Reading v Huddersfield Town. Fourth division: Blackpool 3, Cheltenham 0; Darlington 1, Wrexham 0; Doncaster 3, York 2; Hartlepool 4, Carlisle 1; Peterborough 1, Northampton 0; Torquay 3, Halifax 1.

B AND Q SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Brechin 1, Airdrie 2; Dundee 1, Clydebank 0. Postponed: Hamilton v Meadowbank; Morton v Forfar Athletic; Partick Thistle v Clyde. Second division: Montrose 2, Cowdenbeath 0; Cowdenbeath 2, Berwick 1; Stenhousemuir 2, Queen of South 1. Postponed: Alloa v East Fife; East Stirling v Stirling Albion.

BOB LORD TROPHY: Third round: Runcorn 1, Kidderminster 2 (aet).

FA TROPHY: Second round: Kettering 2, Barrow 1. Postponed: Merthyr v Gloucester.

HFS LOANS LEAGUE CUP: Fourth round: Bangor 6, Corzon Ashton 5.

LARCHMAGE WINDOWS CUP: Third round, second leg: Wealdstone 4, Buckingham 3 (5-4 on agg). Fourth round, first leg: Trowbridge 4, Dorchester 1. Fourth round, second leg: Grantham Town 2, Chelmsford 2 (aet; 3-6 on agg, Chelmsford win 5-4 on penalties); Tamworth 2, Burton 0 (4-1 on agg).

OVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION: Queen's Park Rangers 3, Swindon 3. Postponed: Charlton v West Ham; Watford v Ipswich.

VAUXHALL LEAGUE: Loctite Trophy: Witham 1, Vauxhall Motors 1; Abingdon 1, Stevenage Borough 0. Postponed: Finchley v Horsham; Cove v Purfleet; Hungerford v Malden Vale; Harefield v Hampton; Flackwell Heath v Newbury. First division: Heybridge Swifts 2, Yeading 1; Southwick 3, Worthing 3. Postponed: Dorking v Dulwich; Whyteleafe v Boreham Wood. Second division north: Postponed: Tilbury v Saffron Walden. Second division south: Postponed: Camberley v Petersfield; Maidenhead v Southall.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Midland division: Postponed: Bilston v Newport AFC; Stroud v Hednesford.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Clevedon 0, Plymouth Argyle 0. Postponed: Paulton v Melton Rovers.

BERKS AND BUCKS SENIOR CUP: Second round: Wycombe Wanderers 7, Chalfont St Peter 0.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Combined Services 1, Vauxhall League XI 0.

IN BRIEF

Hadlee in hospital

SIR Richard Hadlee, who retired from Test cricket last year, collapsed with "irregular heartbeat" while attending yesterday's one-day international between New Zealand and Sri Lanka in Dunedin.

His wife, Lady Hadlee, said: "There is no permanent damage. He is in intensive care as a precautionary measure." His condition was described as comfortable.

SKIING: The giant slalom world champion, Rudi Nierlich, of Austria, can keep the gold medal he won on Sunday after tests showed his ski suit conformed with regulations.

NORDIC SKIING: The opening ceremony of the world championships in Val di Fiemme, Italy, was cancelled because of the Gulf War.

CYCLING: Only two places will be open to British professional teams in the Milk Race (May 26 to June 8). One will be filled by Banana-Falcon, last year's winners, and the other by an unnamed squad.

BOXING: Leroy Murphy, the former world cruiserweight champion, will meet his fellow American, Mike Evans, for the vacant IBF inter-continental heavyweight championship at Teeside on February 16.

JUDO: Algeria has pulled out of the annual Paris tournament next weekend.

SNOOKER

Hallett knuckles down and reaps the reward

MIKE Hallett proved a point both to himself and his manager, Ian Doyle, as he defeated Alan McManus, a qualifier, 5-3 to reach the last eight of the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley yesterday (Steve Acteson writes).

Hallett, No. 7 in the world and playing a first-season professional, appeared to be on a hiding to nothing. "I had a point to prove," he said, and it was not lost on Doyle, who threatened to dismiss him last year unless he spent more time in practice and less in nightclubs.

Hallett is now practising seven hours a day, he says, and, with a more determined attitude, successfully chased the snooker he needed on the pink in frame three but watched in trepidation as McManus fluked the last red out of a snooker in frame four to level at 2-2.

Hallett, however, built a break of 74 to win the fifth frame and battled on successfully thereafter. "I'm trying hard to rebuild my confidence and it's coming," he said.

McManus was suffering from such a heavy cold that he played much of the match with tissue protruding from one nostril to avoid embarrassing symptoms. He returns to Glasgow £9,000 richer and, by beating Alain Robidoux has shown again what a fine prospect he is.

RESULTS: Second round: M Hallett (Eng) bt A McManus (Scot), 5-3. Tuesday's late result: J Parrott (Eng) bt W Thorne (Eng), 5-3.

BASKETBALL

Kingston's last chance

HAVING entertained the best team in Europe, Kingston tonight play host to the continent's outstanding player. It is a measure of the high standard in the final pool of the European Champions Cup that after Barcelona's appearance at Crystal Palace last week, Nick Gallis, the formidable Greek, will be the centre of attraction at the National Sports Centre (Nicholas Harling writes).

The appeal of Gallis, the highest paid player in Greece, and his club, Aris Salonika, for a tie that Kingston must win to preserve even a remote chance of qualifying for the final four in Paris in April, brings the certainty of a capacity crowd for a second week in succession.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Plans drawn up for new third division

By Keith Macklin

COMPLEX proposals for the creation of a third division were formulated by the Rugby Football League Council in Leeds yesterday. They will be presented to a special general meeting of clubs on March 6.

The council recommends that the Stones Bitter Championship, the top division, will have 14 clubs. The middle tier, to be known as the first division, will have eight, and the second division — the new third tier — will also have 14.

Delegates will have to decide whether the proposal should be implemented next season, or in 1992-3. If it is next season, the present three-up and three-down promotion and relegation system will apply, but in future years it will be two-up and two-down.

The Stones Bitter premiership for the top eight clubs in the League will remain undisturbed. However, to create a minor premiership, the top four clubs in the new first division will have home advantage against four clubs from the new second division.

● Bradford Northern have approached Bradford City football club for permission to switch their Silk Cut Challenge Cup first-round tie against Leigh this weekend to Valley Parade.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

HALTON: RAF cross country championships: Mens: 10km: 1, Sq Ldr R Hackney (Halton), 35min 0sec; 2, Cpl A Nail (Lisarbruch, Ger), 35:06; 3, FO S Jones (Halton), 35:27. Team: 1, Brize Norton, 100pts; 2, Halton, 171; 3, Locking, 230. Inter-Command champs, Juniors: 1, Support, 45pts; 2, Strike, 49. Veterans: Flt Lt Overton (Cranwell), 37:43. Juniors: SAC Scoggings (Lyneham), 37:49. Women: 1, SAC W Morgan (St Athan), 23:44; 2, Cpl Carter (Stanmore Park); 3, FO Hughes (Innsworth). Teams: 1, Digby, 36pts; 2, Brize Norton, 46; 3, St Athan, 55.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Atlanta Hawks 118, Cleveland Cavaliers 114; Detroit Pistons 107, Philadelphia 76ers 98; Orlando Magic 118, New York Knicks 116; Minnesota Timberwolves 94, Utah Jazz 93; Dallas Mavericks 114, Indiana Pacers 109; Golden State Warriors 112, San Antonio Spurs 108; Phoenix Suns 128, Denver Nuggets 103; Los Angeles Lakers 118, Los Angeles Clippers 102.

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Club Cricket Conference 245-4 (M Roberts 75, S N V Waterton 72); Charlestown District (Aus) 133 (R Evans 4-23). Club Cricket Conference won by 112 runs.

QAID-I-AZAM TROPHY: Semi-final: Bahawalpur 297-9 dec and 219-6 dec (Shakael Ahmad 92, Shahid Anwar 58; Zafar Ahmed 4-18); Karachi Blues 186 and 272 (Zafar Ahmed 73). Bahawalpur won by 28 runs and meet Karachi Whites in the final, starting on February 12 in Karachi.

CYCLING

TOUR OF ANDALUSIA: First stage (117 miles): 1, J L Villanueva (Sp), 4hr 58min 23sec; 2, J Simons (Ned), at 6sec; 3, A Bishop (US), 8; 4, R Lezcano (Sp), 11; 5, P Pieters (Neth), 6, R Pagnin (It), same time.

COPENHAGEN: Six-day race (after five days): 1, J Veggerby (Den) and D Clark (Aus), 414 points; 2, R Soerensen (Den) and A Biehl (It), 368; 3, P Biscolletti (It) and B Holemeyer (Switz), 324. British placing: (17 laps behind): 8, A Doyle (GB) and M Marcussen (Den), 143.

ETOILE DE BESSEGES: First stage: 1, M Cipollini (It), 3hr 11min 30sec; 2, C Bomans (Bel); 3, S Lillholt (Den), both same time. British placing: 7, M Elliott same time.

FOOTBALL

BARCLAYS LEAGUE: Fourth division: Postponed: Lincoln v Scunthorpe; Maidstone v Gillingham.

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Third round: Postponed: Ross County v Meadowbank.

FA TROPHY: Second round replay: Postponed: Emley v Hyde; Horwich RMI v Grimsby.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Manchester Utd 2, Derby County 1. Postponed: Everton v Rochdale; Nottingham Forest v Leeds; Sheffield Utd v Liverpool. Second division: Postponed: Barnsley v Port Vale; Bradford v Notts County; Burnley v Bolton; Stoke v Mansfield; West Bromwich v Middlesbrough.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Czechoslovakia 2, Australia 0.

GOLF

SAN LORENZO, Algarve: Lusaphat-Hotel Dona Filipa tournament: 145: J Sewell (Woburn), 141; D Williams (Woburn), 145; M Stubbs (Ampneas), 144; I Mosey (Huddersfield), 147; C Cox (West Essex), 151; D Clark (Chislehurst), 152; L Blackdock (Woburn), 154; N Brown (Mid Herts), 155; C Williams (West Essex).

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Bracknell 15, Basingstoke 5, Castle Eden Cup: Cleveland 4, Whitley 2; Durham 5, Sunderland 1.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston Bruins 8, Edmonton Oilers 5; Los Angeles Kings 3, Philadelphia Flyers 2; Washington Capitals 5, Vancouver Canucks 3; New Jersey Devils 2, Calgary Flames 1.

LACROSSE

HYDE, Manchester: England Under-18 2, Middlebury College (Vermont, US) 7.

NORDIC SKIING

LAHTI, Finland: Scandinavia championships: 10km (for the totally blind): 1, M Lund (Nor), 33min 10sec; 2, P Young (Gb), 34; 3, O Sandi (Nor), 35. 30km (for the totally blind): 1, Young, 1hr 35min; 2, Lund, 1:37; 3, Swab, 1:40.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB, London: Lacoste British Open Championships: First round: J Prenn bt C Woridge, 15-12, 15-9, 15-12.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE: First division: Hull 54, Hull KR 4.

TOBOGGANING

ST MORITZ: Inter-services championships: Prince Philip trophy: 1, Army, 727.88; 2, Royal Air Force, 728.38. Lord Trenchard trophy: 1, Flt Lt M Adams (No. 1 FTS RAF Linton on Ouse), 170.05; 2, Capt F Swan (17th-21st Lancers), 173.94; 3, Capt C Renwick (15th-19th The King's Royal Hussars), 178.94. Asty speed cup: Flt Lt M Adams (No. 1 FTS RAF Linton on Ouse), 56.27. Harland trophy (handicap): 1, Lt J Gard (ret) (Royal Green Jackets), 176.56; 2, Lt D Bamber RN (ret), 176.48; 3, Flt Lt AG Hardman RAF (ret), 177.56.

TENNIS

TELFORD: LTA men's challenger tournament: Quarter-finals: M Laurendeau (Can) bt O Rahmazin (Fin), 6-7, 6-4, 7-5; L Barthez (Fr) bt D Poliakov (USSR), 7-5, 1-6, 7-5.

SAN FRANCISCO: ATP tournament: First round: D Pate (US) bt P Chamberlin (US), 6-3, 7-5; M Kratzmann (Aus) bt V Pecholano (Fin), 6-3, 7-5; G Raoux (Fr) bt Brian Garrow (US), 6-1, 6-1; K Curren (US) bt S Davis (US), 7-5 5-3; A Gomez (Ec) bt S Devening (US), 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; A Agassi (US) bt J Tarango (US), 7-5 (7-5), 6-5; J McEnroe (US) bt A Schneider (Can), 6-3, 6-0.

OSLO: Women's tournament: First round: P Paradis (Fr) bt C Kohde-Kilsch (Ger), 7-5, 6-1; C Lindqvist (Swe) bt M Laval (Fr), 6-2, 6-1; B Reinstadler (Austria) bt L Corrado (Bra), 6-0, 7-5; N van Lottum (Fr) bt S Meier (Ger), 7-5, 6-2; S Appelmans (Bel) bt A Moller (Ger), 6-1, 5-3; M Jaggard (Aus) bt P Etchemendy (Fr), 6-3, 6-4; R Reggi (It) bt S Testud (Ger), 6-1, 2-6, 6-4; C Tanvier (Fr) bt C Cohen (Switz), 7-5, 6-4.

WELLINGTON: Women's tournament: Second round: S Hack (Ger) bt N Guerre (Fr) 6-1, 6-1; B Rittner (Ger) bt M Strandlund (Swe), 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; K Godridge (Aus) bt B Cordwell (NZ) 7-5, 6-4; A Sanadova (Cz) bt A Minter (Aus), 6-4, 6-1.

MILAN: ATP indoor tournament: First round: P Cash (Aus) bt A Cherkasov (USSR), 7-5, 4-6, 7-6; A Cherkasov (USSR) bt B Soresini (It), 6-3, 6-3; C Caratti (It) bt P Lundgren (Swe) 7-5, 6-2; C-J Steeb (Ger) bt M Chang (US), 6-1, 7-5; E Jelen (Ger) bt C Van Rensburg (SA), 6-4, 6-2; J Gunnarsson (Swe) bt C Mezzadri (It), 6-3, 6-3. Second round: A Krickstein (US) bt T Champion (Fr), 4-0, ret.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

FA TROPHY: Second round: Merthyr v Gloucester.

VAUXHALL LEAGUE: Loctite Cup: Boreham Wood v Lewes; Kingstonian v Dagenham.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Scunthorpe v York (7.0).

OVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION: Chelsea v Watford (2.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE: Second division: Keighley v Huddersfield (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

RACKETS: Open singles championships (Queen's Club).

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish masters (Wembley).

TENNIS: Challenger tournament (Telford Rackets Centre, 10.0).

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SPORT

Case controversy is still lingering after video replay

By Dennis Signy and Ian Ross

MORE controversy followed the decision by the FA yesterday to uphold the suspension of Jimmy Case, the Southampton midfield player, following his dismissal in the Rumbelows Cup quarter-final replay against Manchester United at Old Trafford last month.

George Courtney, the referee, after studying a video of the incident in which Case was judged to have inflicted a "professional foul" on Bryan Robson, stuck to his decision.

With Case facing a three-match suspension, Chris Nicholl, his manager, said: "I am shocked that the referee has seen fit to back his decision from the match.

"Under pressure, we can forgive him making a mistake and a wrong decision, but I feel this is out of all proportion with reality. He is backing his original judgement that there was serious foul play after watching the video recording and I cannot believe it.

"He questions our whole understanding of referees' judgement of the rules. All people make mistakes under pressure but to watch the video in the cold light of day and come up with the same decision is unbelievable."

Case and Robson shook hands before the Southampton player left the field after Courtney had produced a red card. United won the tie 3-2.

A precedent was set for a referee to alter his decision earlier this season when Keith Hackett decided, on reflection, that a caution would have sufficed rather than a dismissal for Keith Dublin, the Watford defender, in a match against Leicester City.

Tony Adams, the Arsenal captain soon due for release from Chelmsford prison after being sentenced to four months' imprisonment for a drinking and driving offence, was fined £1,000 by the FA yesterday for bringing the game into disrepute by making a gesture to Queen's Park Rangers supporters during his club's game at Loftus Road on November 24..

The fine followed complaints to the police, who took written evidence from eight people at the match and passed it on to the FA for action. "The evidence was not challenged," David Bloomfield, an FA spokesman, said.

Bloomfield said that Adams, who was suspended for three matches following his dismissal at Luton on December 8, would be able to play for Arsenal when he left prison. The ban related to three matches he had missed during his sentence.

Everton have agreed to pay £400,000 for Robert Warzycha, the Polish midfield player, who scored in the international match against Northern Ireland in Belfast on Tuesday.

Warzycha, who plays for Gornik Zabrze, has been on trial at the Merseyside club for the past fortnight and will shortly complete his move to English football, subject to the granting of a work permit.

"I have been very impressed with him during training and he looks the part," Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, said. Kendall admitted, however, that he had only renewed a long-standing interest in Warzycha after failing to sign several leading Football League players over the past few weeks.

"I have made a substantial number of offers for certain home-based players but, unfortunately, nothing has come of them," he said. "We are keen to sign Robert, and he is very keen to join us, but there are still several things to be sorted out. In view of his extensive international experience, I do not anticipate any problems with regard to the work permit."

Aston Villa have offered Paul McGrath, the 31-year-old Irish international defender, a new two-year contract. McGrath's present contract expires at the end of this season but Villa are taking up a one-year option and adding a year to it.

When Graham Taylor, the then manager of Villa, signed McGrath from Manchester United for £400,000 in August 1989, it looked a potentially expensive gamble because of his recurring problems with arthritic knees. However, his attendance record has since been first class and his form outstanding.

"We want to tie him to the club a little longer because we respect his ability," Peter Withe, the Villa assistant manager, said. "This is why we not only want to take up the option but also add to it. We have already discussed it with him and we hope to conclude it next week."

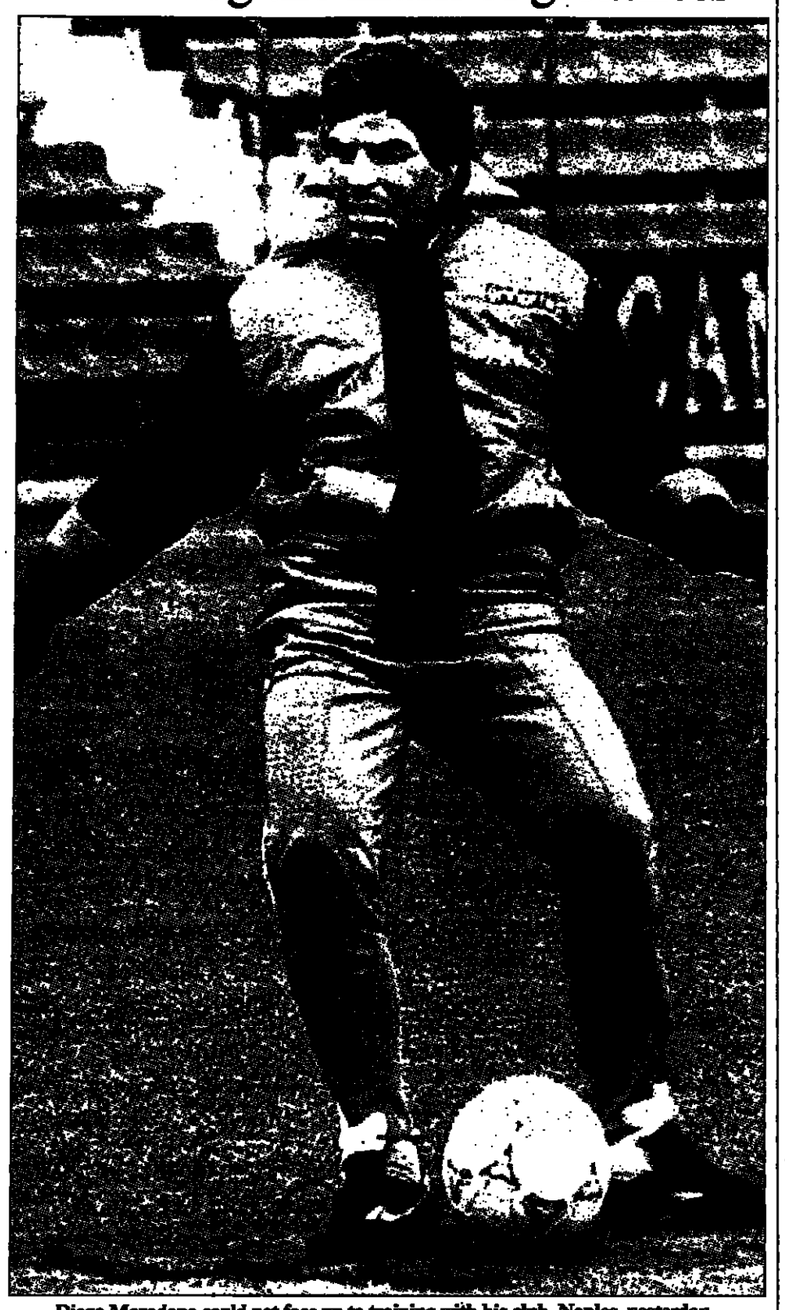
Villa are also having talks with Gordon Cowans, Derek Mountfield, Chris Price, Lee Butler and Andy Comyn, who are all near the end of exisiting contracts.

Uefa has rejected **Spartak Moscow**'s request to switch their European Cup quarter-final against Real Madrid to Western Europe to avoid the severe Soviet winter.

Uefa said it had recently told Spartak that the first leg on March 6, scheduled for Moscow, must be played within the Soviet Union. Spartak, citing "weather conditions", had suggested the match could be played in Paris or Bremen in Germany.

Joe Dunwell has resigned as manager of **Dagenham**, the Vauxhall Premier League club.

Donning the mask of greatness



Diego Maradona could not face up to training with his club, Naples, yesterday, but his team mate, Giuseppe Incocciati, decided not to disappoint any watching supporters and donned a Maradona mask. It is thought the troubled Argentinian did not show up because he has been dropped for a cup match.

Boycott urged as prices are raised

PORTSMOUTH'S supporters were yesterday urged to boycott their club's fifth round FA Cup tie against Tottenham Hotspur next week (a Special Correspondent writes). The second division club has increased the price of tickets by about a third in the hope of making an extra £20,000.

But the Football Supporters' Association denounced the decision. Sheila Spears, a spokesperson, said: "We deplore such action. There shouldn't be special prices for special matches. Portsmouth are suffering as a town in this economic climate. Their docklands have been badly hit by the recession as you can see from the length of the dole queues.

"It's sad that the supporters who have travelled all over the country to support their team should have to pay more. I know supporters will want to see such a glamour game like the visit of Tottenham, but we would urge the fans to boycott the match and write to the club complaining."

Portsmouth have increased terrace tickets by £2 and seats by £2.50. The club secretary, Paul Weld, said: "People have every right to voice their opinions but we have a business to run and have got to survive."

A Valentine's Day election

THE **Chelsea** chairman, Ken Bates, will be opposed by Maxwell Holmes, a director of **Leeds United**, for the vacancy on the Football League management committee caused when Bates stood down last month after Chelsea had been fined for breaching League regulations.

All the first division clubs are entitled to vote and the result is expected to be announced next Thursday, February 14.

● **BERNE:** The Bulgarian Football Union has appealed against a three-year touchline ban imposed on the national coach, Ivan Vutzov, for bad behaviour during a European championship match against Scotland on November 14 (Reuter reports).

A Uefa spokesman, Rene Eberle, said that because of a heavy agenda, a protest by the Welsh FA against a four-match suspension imposed on Clayton Blackmore would be heard at a later date. Blackmore, the Manchester United defender, was sent off for violent play in the European championship game against Luxembourg.

● The former Burnley and England Under-23 forward, Paul Fletcher, has been appointed as the first chief executive of **Huddersfield Town**.

● **SYDNEY:** Second half goals from Kula and Grussman, a substitute, gave Czechoslavakia a 2-0 victory over Australia in yesterday's international (AP reports).

Scotland happy but Irish pick three new caps

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND, as is their custom, left well alone when they announced yesterday the XV to play England at Twickenham on Saturday week; Ireland, by contrast, have named three new caps in their side to play Wales in Cardiff on the same day and, for the first time within memory, include four players, all backs, from the London Irish club.

It was predictable that Scotland's only change would be the retention at hooker of Ken Milne, who came on against Wales last weekend as a replacement for the injured John Allan. Allan has sprung rib cartilages and could not be considered, hence the addition to the replacements of the Hawick hooker, Jim Hay.

It was equally predictable that the Irish selectors would be happy with the pack which served them so well in defeat against France; in turning their attention to the back division, however, they have wielded an axe which has removed from the side Michael Kiernan, Ireland's record points scorer with 308 in 43 matches. With him go Ken Hooks, the Bangor wing, and Kenny Murphy, the Constitution full back and into their places come, respectively, David Curtis, Jack Clarke and Jim Staples.

Curtis and Staples join their London Irish colleagues, Simon Geoghegan and Rob Saunders, in the team which has been properly labelled by Ken Reid, the manager, as an attacking combination. The inference is that, having achieved a decent forward platform, Ireland will have the confidence to carry the game to a Welsh team short of confidence after defeats by England and Scotland.

Clarke, the Dolphin wing aged 22, who scored a try (from centre) in the B international against Scotland at Christmas, benefits from the continued absence of Keith Crossan. The experienced Instonians wing is still feeling a leg injury so Clarke, a talented schoolboy athlete who has also played under-21 and under-25 rugby for his country, forms part of a revitalised back division (none of whom was born in Ireland) in which Brendan Mullin, at 27 and with 34 caps, becomes the senior partner.

Mullin, incidentally, has been place-kicking for Blackrock College, his club, though with Kiernan gone those duties will go in the first instance to Brian Smith, with Staples also offering back-up.

The elevation of Staples and Curtis, both aged 25, is not unexpected since they both enjoyed a successful inter-provincial series with Connacht. Staples has played representative rugby on the wing and offers genuine pace; moreover, his club understanding with Curtis and Geoghegan may be an important element in Ciaran Fitzgerald's attacking plans.

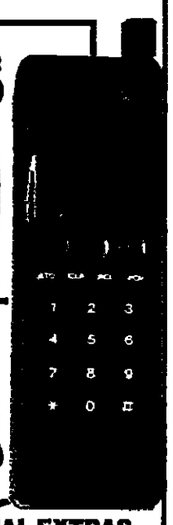
Curtis, who was born in Zimbabwe, follows his father, Bryan, into the national side. Curtis senior was a flanker who won three caps in 1950 while a student at Oxford University and now his son, whose rugby education was conducted in South Africa as well as Zimbabwe, receives his opportunity 14 months after winning his Blue at Oxford — where he played outside Smith. The decision on the backs clearly indicates a change of policy. Smith was instructed to kick for much of the game against France, with mixed effectiveness which created some doubt about his place; but having picked an adventurous threequarter line, Ireland must now use it and hope that Smith's hands prove quick enough to give his midfield a chance.

Moreover, once the decision was made to dispense with Kiernan Smith's place was secured because of his goal-kicking.

● Ian Fifield, the Penarth scrum half, has been banned for 24 weeks following his sending off in the Heineken League first division match against Newport last month. He was given a six-week suspension for a stamping incident, but as Fifield was banned for 18 weeks last season after playing for Barry Plastics without a permit, the rules require a further 18 weeks to be added following his latest offence.

International teams

IRELAND (v Wales): J E Staples (London Irish); S P Geoghegan (London Irish), D M Curtis (London Irish), B J Mullin (Blackrock College), J Clarke (Dolphin); B A Smith (Leicester), R Saunders (London Irish, captain); J J Fitzgerald (Young Munster), S J Smith (Ballymena), D C Fitzgerald (Lansdowne), P N Matthews (Wanderers), M J Galvey (Shannon), B J Rigney (Greystones), G F Hamilton (NIFC), B F Robinson (Ballymena). Replacements: K J Murphy (Constitution), V J G Cunningham (St Mary's College), A C Reilland (Blackrock College), M P Mandon (Lansdowne), G F Halpin (Wanderers), T J Kingston (Dolphin).
SCOTLAND (v England): A G Hastings (Watsonians); A G Stanger (Hawick), S Hastings (Watsonians), S R P Linnen (Boroughmuir), A Moore (Edinburgh Academicals); C M Chalmers (Melrose), G Armstrong (Jed-Forest); D M B Sole (Edinburgh Academicals, captain); K S Milne (Heriot's FP), A P Burnell (London Scottish), D J Turnbull (Hawick), C A Gray (Nottingham), D F Turnbull (Hawick), J Jeffrey (Kelso), D B White (London Scottish). Replacements: P W Dods (Gala), D S Wyllie (Stewart's Melville FP), G N Oliver (Hawick), G R Marshall (Selkirk), D F Milne (Heriot's FP), J A Hay (Hawick).

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Cricket 2000 loses council's support

By Ivo Tennant

CRICKET 2000, a limited company set up last year with the intention of rejuvenating cricket in schools, was ostracised yesterday by the Cricket Council, the governing body of the game in Britain.

The Cricket Council said that Cricket 2000 "is not a national initiative and, therefore, cannot be part of the national programme". The issue has come to a head following discussions between the National Cricket Association (NCA), which represents the game below first-class level, and officials of Cricket 2000.

The Cricket Council said that it still regards the Lord's Taverners as the main charitable body of the game. It added that members of the NCA should take part in Cricket 2000 at local level "if they so wished".

Cricket 2000 was launched last September by Peter Downey, a businessman, and Eric Russell, the former England batsman. Their plans to set up 50 charitable foundations throughout the country over three years were backed by, among others, the prime minister.

Yet the NCA and Lord's Taverners both opposed the scheme, as did the English Schools Cricket Association, which has put its view to John Major. "Cricket 2000 is inherently a commercial enterprise and at this time it is not appropriate to give it national support and recognition," Keith Andrew, chief executive of the NCA, said.

Downey said: "We are disappointed but pleased there are applications for the scheme at local level. We look forward to a further review in the near future when we hope they will recognise what we are doing."

Ashes series review, page 34.

Heinzer in tune on testing run

VAL D'ISERE, France (Reuter) — The world downhill skiing champion, Franz Heinzer, of Switzerland, was the fastest in practice on the second day of training yesterday for tomorrow's World Cup event, the first big test of the new Olympic piste.

But if the Swiss was delighted with the course, designed by his compatriot, Bernhard Russi, many of his rivals were highly critical of the track's large number of turns and relatively slow speed.

"It's a very tough downhill, very demanding," Heinzer said. "It's hard to memorise because it turns more like a super-G course."

Stefan Eberharter, of Austria, a surprise winner of two gold medals in the super-G and combination at the world championships in Saalbach, proved how suitable the course is for technical racers with the second fastest time, 0.53sec slower than Heinzer.

Dispute over sale of tickets for Barcelona Olympics

From Edward Owen in Madrid

WITHIN hours of four million tickets for the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games being put on sale, a dispute has erupted over the booking and payment system.

The Barcelona Olympic Organising Committee (COOB 92) yesterday filed a criminal complaint against a small Madrid theatre agency, Kamerton, for advertising reservations for the Games. A spokesman for COOB 92 said that the only authorised vendor of tickets for Spaniards and foreign residents in Spain is the Spanish bank, Banesto, which is financing the Games.

Because the Montjuic stadium has space for only 25,000 members of the public, he estimates the minimum odds on getting a seat at 37-1. More than 30,000 glossy leaflets and application forms have been distributed to Banesto's 2,600 branches. Ticket requests can only be made by Spaniards, foreigners resident in Spain or Spanish companies.

Top prices range from £250 for best seats to £4 to watch the pelota.

Simon Alonso, the managing director of the Kamerton ticket agency, claims in his press advertisement that the scheme "is very corrupt. They are selling the best tickets to foreign agencies but not to any in Spain. And here they are not selling tickets, they are selling reservations," he said yesterday.

"The ticket account is COOB 92's and not ours," Emilio Catasus, spokesman for Banesto, said. "We have issued a writ against Kamerton for the content of the advertisement," the COOB 92 spokesman said. "First of all they don't have any tickets to sell and, secondly, we are not corrupt. Banesto has 2,600 branches and Kamerton has only one. The system is the same as used in Los Angeles."

But in Britain, Michael Norris, of Sports World Travel of Abingdon, which has exclusive sale of Olympics tickets, is worried about his allocation.

"The demand will be ten times that of Seoul because Barcelona is much closer and does not suffer from political uncertainty," he said. "We expect tens of thousands of applicants for the traditionally popular sports.

"But we still don't know how many tickets the IOC will send us. We should be within the world's top five nations. We will sell primarily to those buying travel packages or Britons with homes in Spain."

Winter sports

Tokyo — More than 1,000 competitors and officials from 29 countries will take part in the Universiade, the Winter University Games, in Sapporo from March 2 to 10. Some of the skiing will be in Furano. The

Safety first as athletes fly on separate planes

THE 50-strong British athletics team travelling to Turin next week for an indoor match against Italy and Yugoslavia is to be split into two and will fly on separate aircraft leaving London less than an hour apart (David Powell writes).

The decision, at the initiative of Frank Dick, the national director of coaching, follows advice from the department of transport that "the risks of terrorist attacks to civil aviation have increased due to the Gulf War".

Tony Ward, the spokesman for the British Amateur Athletic Board, said yesterday that he could not recall any recent occasion on which a British team had not travelled as one to an international match. "What we are doing is taking a sensible precaution in view of the present circumstances," Ward said. "Clearly the risk has increased, but we do not feel it has increased anywhere near enough for it to affect our international programme."

None of the athletes approached for selection has declined because of concern over travelling. Those under consideration were, Ward said, "checked for availability".

BOA standing firm on bid timetable

By John Goodbody

WITH only 48 hours remaining before the deadline for UK bids for the 2000 Olympic Games expires, and no renewed negotiations between the two rival London groups, the British Olympic Association (BOA) yesterday reiterated that it would allow only one bid from each city.

London faces disqualification at midnight on Friday unless the two organisations, London Olympic 2000, whose chairman is Sebastian Coe, and the London Council for Sport and Recreation (LCSR) can reconcile their differences.

Richard Sumray, vice-chairman of the LCSR, said: "The issues are clear enough not to make any meeting necessary. I hope a settlement is still possible.

"Our bid is about sport but it is also about London. We have been trying to put the two together. Our concern is that the new facilities should be used not just for the Games but also afterwards by the population of the capital.

"A package approach for the funding of facilities is necessary between the private sector, sports bodies and also local authorities. We cannot land up with a situation like that which has occurred in Sheffield with the World Student Games."

Dick Palmer, the secretary of the BOA, said that the national Olympic committee had already voted in December to give a deadline to both London and Manchester. "Everyone was aware at the time that there was more than one London bid and, on January 8, this was made very clear to the London groups."

Palmer said he was "terribly disappointed" at the failure to unify their efforts, particularly when they, plus Tarmac, the construction company, which has withdrawn, seemed to "complement each other wonderfully."

Representatives from the two groups yesterday met London's Conservative MPs and the Conservative sports committee. Dick Tracey, a former minister for sport, said: "My impression is that personalities have taken over the whole question, to the detriment of London winning.

"I can see the advantages of the Games being held in London.

Leading article, page 11
Sports letters, page 32

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